1986

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

Report to the Supreme Court of Iowa
by
The State Court Administrator

STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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JUNE 8, 1987

TO THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUSTICES
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA:

Pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code section 602.1209, I submit herewith the 1986 report relating to the activity of the judicial department.

I wish to express my appreciation to the various clerks of the Iowa District Court, district court administrators and judicial officers for their cooperation in reporting statistics to this office.

Respectfully,

William J. O'Brien
State Court Administrator

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STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS AND TRENDS

Appellate Courts

1. In 1986, there were 1,880 filings (1,415 civil, 465 criminal) and 2,049 dispositions (1,467 civil, 582 criminal); filings dropped 1.1 percent, while dispositions rose 2.0 percent from 1985.

2. Since 1976, the number of filings in the appellate courts soared 59.9 percent (1,176 to 1,880) or an average of about 6.0 percent per year; the number of filings per appellate judge climbed 48.8 percent (84 to 125). [Table 12]

3. There were 933 formal dispositions (690 civil, 243 criminal) in the appellate courts in 1986 -- an increase of one case from 1985. By formal opinion, the supreme court disposed of 344 cases (255 civil, 89 criminal); the court of appeals handled 589 cases (435 civil, 154 criminal). The number of civil cases disposed of by formal opinion in the appellate courts decreased 2.5 percent (708 to 690) from 1985 to 1986; the number of criminal cases increased 8.5 percent (224 to 243). There were 1,116 appellate cases (777 civil, 339 criminal) terminated by order or other mode prior to submission to the court as compared to 1,077 dispositions of this kind in 1985. [Tables 3 and 9]

4. In 1986, cases involving domestic relations (dissolutions and child custody) comprised 31.2 percent (215 of 690) of the formal appellate decisions in civil cases -- the largest single category of dispositions. The 104 tort cases comprised the second most numerous type of civil case followed by administrative law (101) and contract (91) cases. The number of attorney disciplinary cases disposed of by formal opinion increased from 13 to 18. [Tables 3 and 9]

5. The average appellate case terminated by formal opinion was decided five months after it was ready for submission; the average elapse time from the filing of a notice of appeal to the time a case was ready for submission was about seven months. Regular civil cases submitted to the supreme court in January 1987, were made ready in or before July 1986 -- a delay of six months.

6. During 1986, the number of pending cases in the appellate courts declined 1.3 percent (1,184 to 1,169). The number of cases "ready" for disposition rose 4.5 percent (378 to 395). [A "ready" case in this context is defined as any pending case in which all necessary papers have been filed; it includes cases which have been submitted to the court but not decided.] [Tables 4 and 8]

7. By formal opinion, the appellate courts affirmed the decision of the trial court approximately two-thirds of the time; about one out of five district court filings were reversed and in the remaining cases the appellate courts rendered a mixed decision, partially affirming and reversing the trial court.

8. In 1986, there were 284 applications to the supreme court for further review of a court of appeals decision. Of the 281 applications considered, the court granted further review in 60 cases and denied further review in 221 other instances. Although only about one out of five applications for further review was granted in 1986, it was the highest number and percent ever granted. Since 1977, the supreme court has denied further review in 86 percent of the cases (1,609/1,870). [Table 10] The supreme court vacated the judgment of the court of appeals in 32 cases; it affirmed 13 decisions in 1986.

Trial Court

1. In the 30-year period since 1956, the first year trial court statistics were collected and analyzed at the state level, the number of civil filings escalated 131.3 percent (22,922 to 53,027); while the number of criminal filings skyrocketed 634.7 percent (6,178 to 45,391); the number of civil/criminal filings per district judge mushroomed 138.9 percent (416 to 994). [Appendix F] Iowa's population grew 5.9 percent (2,722,375 to 2,883,400) during this period.

2. Since 1956, the number of civil/criminal dispositions per district court judge jumped 88.8 percent (394 to 744). [Appendix H].

3. Since 1956, the number of juvenile petitions soared 296.2 percent (1,607 to 6,367). The number of probate cases opened rose 47.4 percent (16,137 to 23,793) since 1956. [Appendix F]

4. Since 1974, the first calendar year after unification of the Iowa District Court, civil filings, criminal filings, juvenile petitions and probate matters have increased 46.4, 119.8, 16.9, and 5.1 percent, respectively. Similarly, the number of simple misdemeanors/scheduled violations filings increased 24.0 percent (484,651 to 686,348) while the number of small claims petitions rose less than one percent (68,021 to 68,465). The 1986 figures show a 2.9 percent increase in the number of simple misdemeanor filings, a 5.5 percent rise in the number of scheduled violations and a 5.9 percent decrease in the number of small claims filed in the district court from 1985. [Appendices F and G]

5. In 1986, only 517 of the 232,211 simple misdemeanors (0.2 percent) and 761 of the 26,067 small claims (2.9 percent) terminated by judicial officers were appealed to the district court. [Tables 5 and 6]

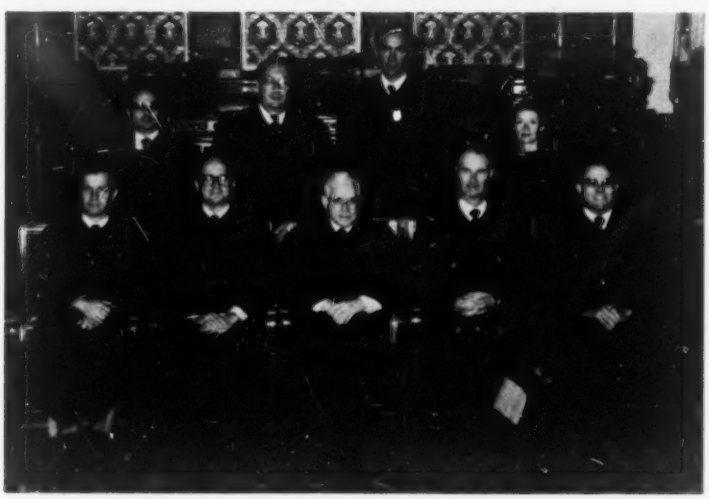
6. In 1986, dissolutions and modifications (16,844), uniform support (7,722), and domestic abuse (170) filings accounted for 24,736 cases or 46.6 percent of all civil filings (53,027). Indictable misdemeanor cases involving first and second offense drunk driving (OWI) comprise 18,286 of the 45,391 criminal filings or 40.3 percent of the total. There were 7,692 felony filings in 1986 -- down 278 cases or 3.5 percent from the 7,970 felony filings in 1985. [Tables 4 and 5]

I. APPELLATE COURTS

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

The Supreme Court of Iowa is composed of nine justices. The chief justice is selected by a vote of the court and serves for the duration of his or her eight-year term of office. As of January 1, 1987, ninety-eight persons have served on the supreme court since Iowa became a territory on July 12, 1838. Although the high court was composed of only three justices during the first 25 years, the general assembly increased the court's membership to four in 1864, to five in 1876, to six in 1894, to seven in 1913, to eight in 1927, and nine in 1929, as a result of rising caseload.

At the end of 1986, the justices of the supreme court listed in order of seniority were: W. Ward Reynoldson, Chief Justice (Osceola), David Harris (Jefferson), Arthur A. McGiverin (Ottumwa), Jerry L. Larson (Harlan), Louis W. Schultz (Iowa City), James H. Carter (Cedar Rapids), Charles R. Wolle (Des Moines), Louis A. Lavorato (Des Moines), and Linda K. Neuman (Davenport). Justice Mark McCormick resigned effective January 31, 1986; on the same date, Fifth District Chief Judge Louis A. Lavorato of Des Moines was appointed to the supreme court. On July 24, 1986, Seventh District Judge Linda K. Neuman was appointed to the supreme court to succeed Justice Harvey Uhlenhopp who died May 22, 1986.



Pictured above in a October 1986 photograph of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Iowa are: Jerry L. Larson, David Harris, W. Ward Reynoldson (Chief), Arthur A. McGiverin and Louis W. Schultz (seated); and Louis A. Lavorato, James H. Carter, Charles R. Wolle and Linda K. Neuman (standing).

Selection and Removal

The method of selecting justices to the Supreme Court of Iowa has changed several times since 1838. While the three territorial justices were appointed by the President of the United States, when Iowa became a state on December 28, 1846, the constitution provided for the selection of supreme court justices by a joint vote of both houses of the general assembly. Iowa's second constitution, adopted in 1857, reflected the mood of Jacksonian democracy and called for the popular election of judges. Finally, in 1962, Iowa voters ratified a constitutional amendment which removed judges from partisan elections and established a 15-member State Judicial Nominating Commission composed of seven laypersons appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate and seven attorneys elected by members of the Iowa bar. The supreme court justice with the longest service, other than the chief justice, chairs the commission. Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Supreme Court of Iowa, the commission nominates three individuals from whom the governor selects one. One year following initial appointment, and every eight years thereafter, supreme court justices stand for retention at the general election. Trial and appellate judges appointed after July 1, 1965, must retire by age 72; those appointed earlier may serve until their 75th birthday.

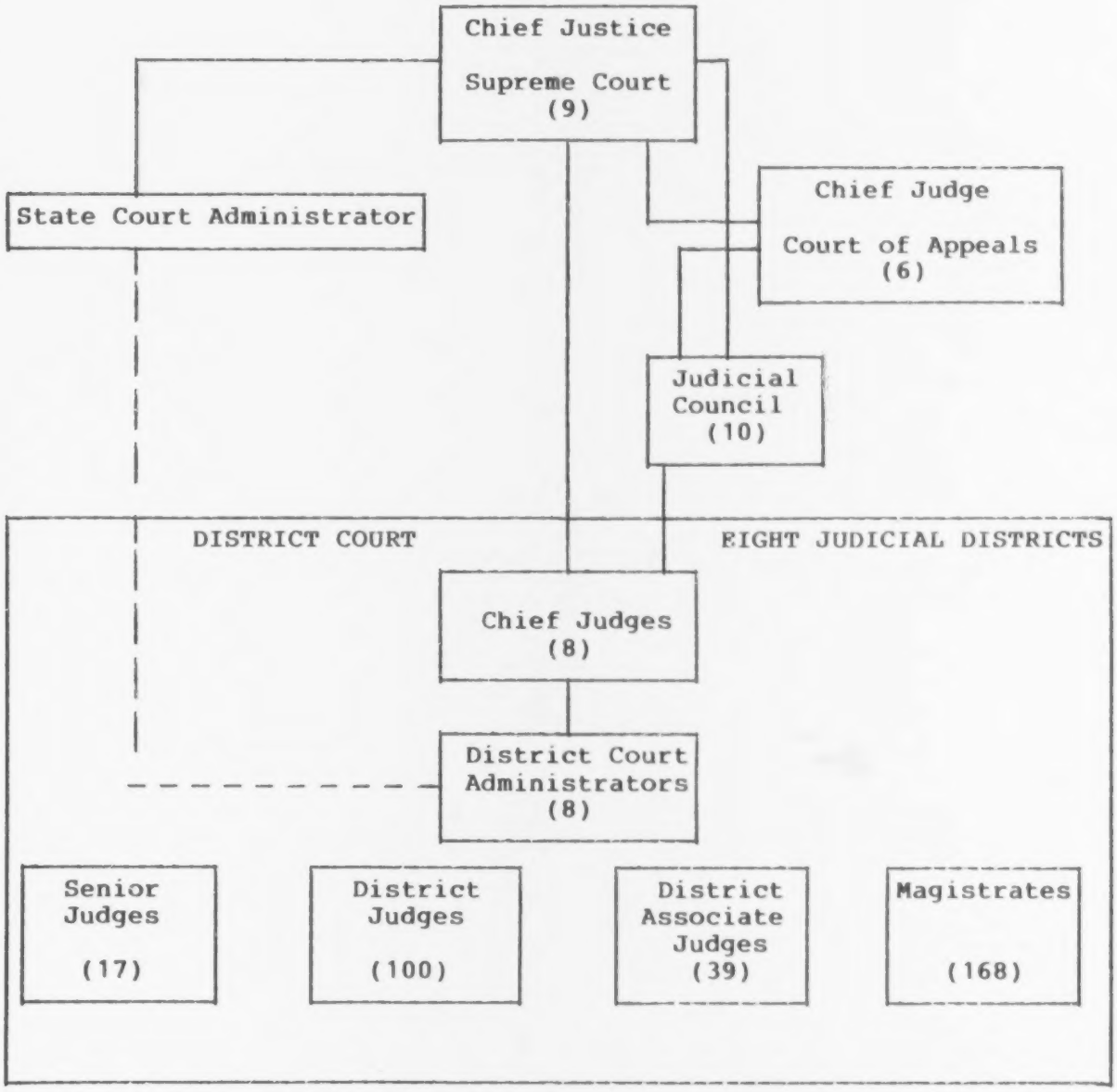
Procedures were established in 1975 for the discipline and removal of judges standing for retention election. The Commission on Judicial Qualifications may apply to the supreme court to retire, discipline or remove any justice, judge or magistrate. The commission is composed of a district court judge and two practicing attorneys appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court and four non-attorney electors appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

Jurisdiction

The supreme court stands at the apex of the Iowa judicial system. The court has general appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal cases. The court also has original jurisdiction in such cases as reapportionment, bar discipline and the issuance of temporary injunctions. The supreme court has jurisdiction over all appeals from final judgments and from interlocutory orders. It also has the authority to grant writs of certiorari in cases where a district court is alleged to have exceeded its jurisdiction or otherwise acted illegally. A majority of cases handled by the supreme court are appeals from adverse final judgments in the trial court, the Iowa District Court. Except where the action involves an interest in real

CHART 1

IOWA JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
(January 1, 1987)



estate, no appeal shall be taken in any case where the amount in controversy, as shown by the pleadings, is less than $3,000 unless the trial judge certifies that the cause is one in which appeal should be allowed. In small claims actions, where the amount in controversy is $2,000 or less, the supreme court may exercise discretionary review. In criminal cases where the state is the appellant or applicant, the supreme court may exercise discretionary review in the following cases: (1) an order dismissing an arrest or search warrant; (2) an order suppressing or admitting evidence; (3) an order granting or denying a change of venue; and (4) a final judgment or order raising a question of law important to the judiciary and the profession. In cases where the defendant is the appellant or applicant, the supreme court may exercise discretionary review in the following cases: (1) an order suppressing or admitting evidence; (2) an order granting or denying a change of venue; (3) an order denying probation; (4) a simple misdemeanor or ordinance violation conviction; and (5) an order raising a question of law important to the judiciary and the profession. All other final judgments may be appealed to the supreme court as a matter of right. [See diagram of the Iowa judicial system on the preceding page.]

The 1976 Session of the 66th General Assembly established a five-member court of appeals. [The Iowa Court of Appeals was increased to six members in 1983.] All cases continue to be appealed directly to the supreme court which transfers cases to the intermediate court. Supreme court justices in rotating three-member panels determine which cases to retain and which matters to route to the court of appeals. Pursuant to Rule 401, Rules of Appellate Procedure, the supreme court ordinarily shall hear (not transfer) cases involving: (1) substantial constitutional questions as to the validity of a statute, ordinance, court, or administrative rule; (2) substantial issues in which there is or is claimed to be a conflict with a published decision of the court of appeals or supreme court; (3) substantial issues of first impression; (4) fundamental and urgent issues of broad public importance requiring prompt or ultimate determination; and (5) lawyer discipline. The rule also authorizes summary disposition of certain cases by the supreme court and transfer to the court of appeals of cases involving the application of existing legal principles.

In addition to deciding cases, the supreme court is authorized to supervise the administration of justice and promulgate rules of procedure for the district court, determine the rules for admission and discipline of the bar, regulate a client security fund and program of mandatory continuing education for lawyers and judges, and adopt rules regulating

appellate practice and procedure. In exercising its administrative and supervisory control over the trial court, the Supreme Court of Iowa appoints a chief judge in each of the eight judicial districts. The chief judges are responsible for overseeing all judges and magistrates within their jurisdictions. Together with the chief justice of the supreme court and the chief judge of the court of appeals, chief judges of the district court comprise the Iowa Judicial Council. The council is authorized to consider all court administrative rules, directives, and regulations necessary to provide for an efficient, orderly, and effective administration of justice in Iowa.

Administrative Office

Assisting the supreme court in its administrative, supervisory, and decision-making roles are the state court administrator, clerk of the supreme court, legal assistants, and various boards and commissions. The court administrator, clerk of supreme court and legal assistants serve at the pleasure of the court. The court administrator and staff have many statutory and administrative responsibilities including: managing the judicial department, screening cases for oral argument and case routing, writing case statements, gathering statistical data on judicial business at all levels, apportioning judicial magistrates among the counties, computing the district court judgeship formula, conducting educational programs for judicial officers and support staff, recommending improvements in the organization and operation of the judicial system, administering the judicial retirement system, handling fiscal and personnel matters, planning and budgeting for the judicial department, providing administrative assistance to various court-appointed committees, and attending to such matters as the supreme court may direct. The court administrator serves as the executive secretary for the Judicial Qualifications Commission and secretary to the State Judicial Nominating Commission; the court administrator is also a member of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Agency and the State Library Commission.

The clerk of the supreme court also serves as the clerk of the court of appeals. The clerk dockets and monitors all cases appealed to the court, collects court fees, files legal briefs, and appendices, and records and files every opinion and order of the appellate courts. The clerk is responsible for the sale of court opinions, the administration of the biannual Iowa bar examination and the election of attorney-members to the state

and judicial election district nominating commissions. The clerk of the supreme court also collects and accounts for all fees associated with the state bar examination and the shorthand reporter examination and certification.

Boards and Commissions

In its role as supervisor of the Iowa bar, the supreme court appoints the members of the Board of Law Examiners and confirms as commissioners of the court the members of the Grievance Commission and the Committee on Professional Ethics and Conduct. In 1973, with the assistance of The Iowa State Bar Association, the court established the Client Security and Attorney Disciplinary System designed to prevent defalcations by members of the Iowa bar and provide for the payment of losses caused to the public by dishonest conduct of Iowa attorneys. The court appointed a seven-member commission to administer the fund resulting from an annual assessment imposed on attorneys. In 1973, the supreme court ordered that all Iowa lawyers and judges complete a minimum of 15 hours of continuing legal education each year. A 12-member Commission on Continuing Legal Education was appointed to exercise general supervisory authority over the administration of this rule.

On December 28, 1984, the Supreme Court of Iowa, upon petition of The Iowa State Bar Association, established an Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account program (IOLTA), effective July 1, 1985. Attorneys in Iowa are required to deposit clients' funds in interest-bearing trust accounts. However, under this program, sums that are too small or held for too short a time to cover the cost of maintaining the accounts, the attorneys are required to deposit such funds into a pooled interest-bearing trust account. Any interest resulting from the pooled account is transmitted to the Lawyer Trust Account Commission, a seven-member body of both lawyers and laypersons appointed by the supreme court to administer the IOLTA program. Funds received in the IOLTA program are used primarily to assist in providing legal services to the poor in civil cases. Other public purposes related to improving the administration of justice also are eligible. The supreme court determines the actual allocation of IOLTA funds. In 1986, IOLTA grants totaling $332,004 were awarded to 13 organizations.

The supreme court is responsible for promulgating rules of evidence, appellate, civil, criminal, juvenile and probate procedure. The court also is authorized to prescribe rules of evidence, pleading, practice, and procedure, and the forms of process, writs, and notices for all proceedings concerning hospitalization of mentally ill persons and chemical substance

abuse. In exercising its rulemaking authority, the supreme court is assisted by several committees including: (1) the Supreme court Committee on Rules of Civil Procedure; (2) the Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure; (3) the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Iowa Rules of Evidence; (4) the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Juvenile Procedure; and (5) t Probate Rules Committee.

Court Reorganization

In recent years the administrative responsibilities of the state court administrator and supreme court have increased dramatically as the size of the judicial department has grown. The 1983 Court Reorganization Act provided state funding for court support staff and a five-year phase-in by functional area of various court system components: October 1, 1983 - jury fees and mileage; July 1, 1984 - court reporters, and witness fees and mileage; January 1, 1985 - court attendants; July 1, 1985 - juvenile referees, juvenile court officers, and staff; July 1, 1986 - district court clerks and staff, probate referees, judicial hospitalization referees, and incidental judicial expenses; and July 1, 1987 - indigent defense costs. The implementation of court reorganization has proceeded on schedule. The judicial department doubled in size when over 900 employees join the department July 1, 1986.

The supreme court has appointed advisory committees from different components joining the judicial department to assist the court in implementing a smooth transition. A personnel system and pay plan for all judicial employees has been established. The state court administrator is the public employer of court employees for purposes of public employment relations.

The supreme court also is assisted by eight chief judges and district court administrators who supervise judicial officers and employees in their respective districts. Although funding is now centralized, most of the day-to-day administration is done at the district level where budgets are developed and expenditures are monitored. The supreme court and staff review all budget requests, prepare a departmental budget, and present the budget request to the legislative branch. A budget summary is attached to the chief justice's annual "State of the Judiciary" message to the legislature.

Budget

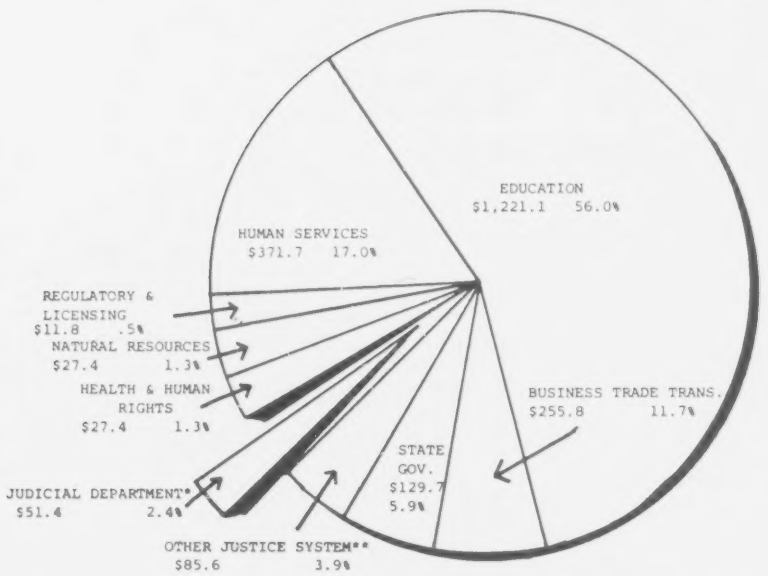
The 1986 Session of the 71st General Assembly appropriated $31,500,000 to finance the operation and administration of the Judicial Department for fiscal year ending June 30, 1987. This figure includes appropriations for the supreme court, court of appeals, state court administrator's office, district court administration, court-related boards and commissions, jury and witness fees, the salaries and travel expenses of all judicial officers, referees, and support staff, and the offices of district court clerks and juvenile court services.

As noted in Chart 2 below, the general fund appropriation for the judiciary represented 2.4 percent of the total state general fund appropriation of $2,182,088,367.

CHART 2

STATE OF IOWA

Appropriated funds for Fiscal Year 1987
in millions of dollars $2,182.10



The cost of administering the Judicial Department is 2.4 percent of the total State General Fund Appropriation for FY 1987.

Source: Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Fiscal Report 1986 Session, June, 1986.

*Judicial Department includes: court operations and reorganization.
**Other Justice System includes: the Attorney General's Office, the Departments of Corrections and Public Safety, the Law Enforcement Academy, the Parole Board and appropriation for a tort liability study.

Work Load

During 1986, the Supreme Court of Iowa disposed of 344 cases by written opinion -- 237 civil, 89 criminal and 18 disciplinary. [Table 1] As illustrated in the chart below, the number of formal opinions (signed and unsigned) increased 13.2 percent (304 to 344) from 1985 to 1986. The fluctuation in the number of per curiam opinions during the last few years is primarily the result of the use of the "fast-track" decision process whereby less complex cases are submitted without oral argument to rotating three-justice panels.

Year	Signed Court Opinions	Unsigned Per Curiam Opinions	Total
1986	272	72	344
1985	273	31	304
1984	270	53	323
1983	281	174	455
1982	289	178	467
1981	278	105	383
1980	250	25	275

As illustrated in Table 2, 84.6 percent of the cases (291 of 344) decided by formal opinion were appealed to the supreme court as a matter of right. There were 245 appeals from final judgments in the district court, 11 appeals from interlocutory rules, 9 postconviction appeals, 18 attorney disciplinary actions, 2 cases involving certified questions of law from the U.S. District Court and 6 cases by miscellaneous modes of review. The Supreme Court of Iowa exercised discretionary review in only 53 cases -- 45 cases appealed from the court of appeals and 8 original certiorari cases.

Table 3 shows the most numerous types of civil cases disposed of by written opinion concerned torts (62), administrative law (56), domestic relations (33), contracts (30), property (12) and postconviction relief (12). Of the 89 criminal cases, 22 involved guilty pleas and/or sentencing issues, exclusively.

In addition to writing 344 opinions during 1986, the nine supreme court justices registered 28 dissents and 8 special concurrences. Their opinions totaled 3,292 pages or 370 pages per judge on double-spaced, letter-size paper. The average supreme court opinion was nearly 10 pages in length, down one page from 1985. About 92 percent of the rulings (316 of 344) were approved by a unanimous vote of the justices.

Cases filed before the supreme court declined slightly from 1,901 (1985) to 1,880 (1986) -- a decrease of 1.1 percent. As noted in Table 11, the number of filings in the supreme court mushroomed 59.9 percent (1,176 to 1,880) during the last decade. Since 1976, civil filings have soared 92.0 percent (737 to 1,415) while criminal cases have climbed 5.9 percent (439 to 465).

Table 4 indicates the number of civil and criminal cases "In Work," "Ready," "Assigned" and "Out-to-Judges" which were pending as of January 1, 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1987. From December 31, 1985, to the end of 1986, the number of cases "In Work" fell 6.2 percent (825 to 774) while the number of cases "Ready" for disposition decreased 29.7 percent (236 to 166). The total number of pending cases dropped by 127 cases (1,126 to 999) or 11.3 percent.

When the pending cases in both appellate courts are examined, figures show an overall decrease of 1.3 percent (1,184 to 1,169) in the number of pending cases from December 31, 1985, to the end of 1986. Including cases assigned and submitted but not decided, the number of cases ready for disposition (i.e., all necessary papers filed) rose 4.7 percent (378 to 395) during 1986.

As noted in Table 5, the average elapse time from "Ready" for submission to supreme court decision was 4.5 months in 1986 -- down a full month from processing time in recent years. The processing time for civil, priority civil and criminal cases was 4.9, 3.4, and 3.5 months, respectively.

An examination of the direction of the supreme court decisions during 1986, indicates that 60 percent of the district court rulings were affirmed by the court, 29 percent were reversed, and 11 percent were mixed. (A "mixed" supreme court decision is defined as a ruling which both "affirms" and "modifies" or "reverses" parts of a district court ruling.) Sixty-nine cases involving such matters as attorney disciplinary actions, appeals from the court of appeals, certification of questions of law and original jurisdiction matters were not classified or included in the disposition direction computation.

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Affirmed	53	67	64	62	60	61	60
Reversed	33	23	23	25	27	29	29
Mixed	14	10	13	13	13	10	11

Sixty percent of the cases (205/344) disposed of by written opinion were appealed from the trial courts of nine urban counties. Nearly one out of five cases arose in Polk County.

Counties	Number of Cases	Percentage of Total Cases Disposed
Polk	64	18.6
Scott	30	8.7
Black Hawk	24	7.0
Linn	23	6.7
Johnson	18	5.2
Dubuque	15	4.4
Pottawattamie	12	3.5
Woodbury	11	3.2
Cerro Gordo	8	2.3
TOTAL	205	59.6

In addition to the 344 supreme court cases disposed of by formal opinion after submission to the court, 1,661 cases (1,164 civil and 497 criminal) were disposed of by court order, consolidation, dismissal by the clerk for failure to cure a default or by voluntary action by the parties involved. Table 6 shows 152 cases were dismissed by order of the supreme court; 284 orders were issued denying petitions for various types of review; 86 cases were dismissed by the clerk for failure to cure a default after notice; 415 cases were voluntarily withdrawn by the parties; 27 cases were consolidated; 552 cases were transferred by order of the supreme court to the court of appeals and 145 were disposed of by other means. In total, 2,005 filings were disposed of by the supreme court in 1986. Excluding cases transferred to the court of appeals, the supreme court disposed of 1,453 appeals in 1986.

A significant amount of judge-time also was spent ruling on preliminary motions and applications, conducting hearings, and writing 4,955 orders which did not result in the disposal of a case. Excluding orders transferring cases to the court of appeals, the number of dispository and non-dispository orders issued by the supreme court during the last seven years is illustrated on the next page.

Year	Dispository Orders	Nondispository Orders
1986	1,109	4,955
1985	1,068	5,128
1984	1,002	4,974
1983	893	5,071
1982	923	4,939
1981	822	5,006
1980	838	4,220

In recent years, several major structural and procedural changes have contributed to the supreme court's ability to handle an increasing number of appeals. One important innovation has been the reinstitution of a practice prevalent from 1929-43; namely, hearing and deciding cases in divisions of five members. Instead of spending four days a month in court hearing oral arguments, each justice now spends two days hearing oral arguments. (During the monthly court week, Wednesday and sometimes part of Thursday morning, generally are reserved for conference and administrative matters.) Except in the most complex and controversial cases in which two or more justices request disposition en banc (by the full nine-member court), cases before the supreme court are decided by division. The drafts of all proposed opinions are circulated to the entire court. At any time prior to final approval of a proposed opinion, any two justices may request that a specific case be decided en banc. The research staff initially screens all cases and recommends to a three-justice screening panel whether a case should be submitted en banc or to a division; staff attorneys also recommend the amount of oral argument time, if any, which should be allotted to each case, and whether the case should be retained by the supreme court or transferred to the court of appeals.

As noted in Table 7, 287 of the 344 supreme court decisions were decided by a panel of five justices. Forty percent of the disciplinary cases were considered en banc; 16.5 percent of the civil and 12.4 percent of the criminal cases were voted on formally by the full membership of the court. Overall, 16.6 percent of the cases disposed of in 1986 were decided by all nine justices sitting en banc.

In addition to using judicial panels to hear and decide cases, the court also has conserved time by reducing the number of cases permitted oral argument and limiting the amount of time each party can use in presenting its case. While before 1973 the court allowed 75 minutes to argue a case, today most oral arguments are limited to approximately 35 minutes. In 1986, nearly one-third of the cases disposed of by formal opinion were submitted to the supreme court without oral argument.

The number and percentage of appeals submitted to the supreme court without oral argument since 1976, are illustrated below.

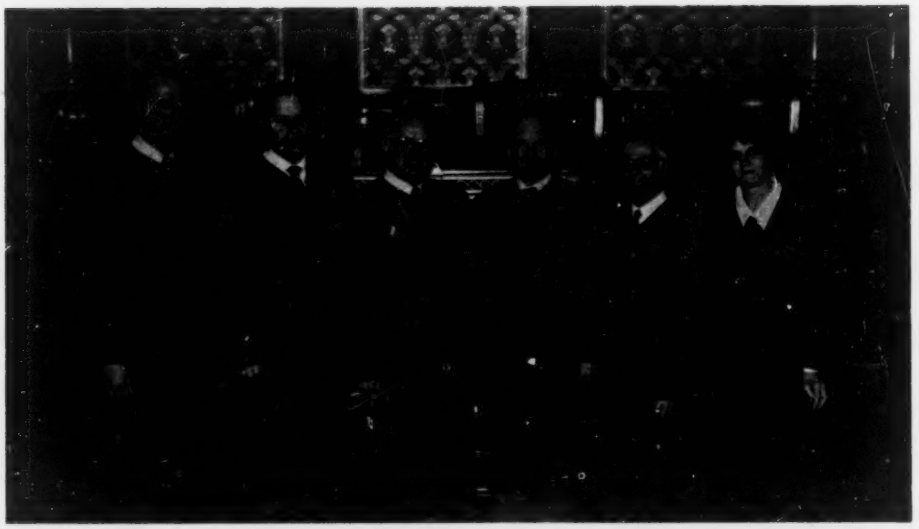
SUBMISSIONS TO THE SUPREME COURT				
Year	Oral	Non-Oral	Total	Percent Non-Oral
1986	229	105	334	31.4
1985	250	53	303	17.5
1984	234	76	310	24.5
1983	257	193	450	43.5
1982	264	217	481	45.1
1981	254	136	390	34.9
1980	236	46	282	16.3
1979	209	60	269	22.3
1978	258	96	354	27.1
1977	264	105	369	28.5
1976	242	149	391	38.1

Other factors playing crucial roles in alleviating some of the court's research and administrative burdens include: the research of legal assistants, case statements, court orders and screening recommendations drafted by the research staff, and the administrative tasks performed by the state court administrator and staff, and the clerk's office.

THE IOWA COURT OF APPEALS

In 1976, the 66th General Assembly established a new five-member appellate court designated as the Iowa Court of Appeals; in 1983 a sixth member was added. The new court began hearing oral arguments and deciding cases in January 1977. The members of the Iowa Court of Appeals listed in order of seniority are: Allen L. Donielson (Des Moines), Bruce M. Snell, Jr. (Ida Grove), Leo Oxberger, Chief Judge (Des Moines), Dick R. Schlegel (Ottumwa), Maynard J. V. Hayden (Indianola) and Rosemary Shaw Sackett (Spencer).

The court of appeals is authorized to review all civil and criminal actions, postconviction remedy proceedings, small claims actions, writs, orders, and other processes transferred to it by the supreme court. The Iowa Court of Appeals hears only the cases transferred to it by the supreme court. All cases continue to be appealed directly to the supreme court.



The judges of the Iowa Court of Appeals are, from left: Maynard J.V. Hayden, Dick R. Schlegel, Allen L. Donielson, Chief Judge Leo Oxberger, Bruce M. Snell, Jr., and Rosemary Shaw Sackett.

Work Load

As indicated in Table 8, during 1986, the six-member court of appeals disposed of 596 cases -- 440 civil and 156 criminal -- the second largest number of dispositions in its nine-year history. There were 71 per curiam opinions, 518 signed opinions, and seven cases dismissed by order. Since the court of appeals was established in late 1976 and began deciding cases in 1977, it has disposed of 4,747 cases (3,445 civil and 1,302 criminal). There were 99 civil and 71 criminal cases pending before the court of appeals at the end of 1986.

The number and type of cases disposed of by formal written opinion are illustrated in Table 9. As noted in this table, the court of appeals disposed of 182 domestic relations cases (81 involving child custody), 61 contract cases, 45 administrative law matters, 42 tort cases, 33 property matters, and 31 postconviction relief cases. Nine of the 154 criminal cases disposed of involved exclusively sentencing or guilty plea issues.

Of the 582 cases classified by disposition, 403 or 69.2 percent were affirmed, 83 or 14.3 percent were reversed, and 96 or 16.5 percent were a combination of the two, modified or remanded only.

During 1986, the supreme court considered 281 applications for further review and granted review in 60 cases or 21.4 percent of the time. Of the 45 court of appeals rulings reviewed by the supreme court in 1986, 32 were vacated and 13 were affirmed.

The average delay from the time a case was "ready" for submission to "decision" by the court of appeals was five months -- over seven months less than appellate delay in 1977, the court's first year of operation. [Table 11] In 1986, the average elapse time for non-priority civil cases was 5.5 months; the delay was 16.1 months in 1977. The average delay in case processing has remained relatively constant since 1978.

Of the 589 cases submitted to the court of appeals in 1986, 334 or 56.7 percent were heard on the record without oral argument. In 1985, the proportion of cases decided without oral argument was 53.4 percent.

Including the 86 opinions with one or more dissents, the 589 formal opinions totaled 3,974 pages, an average of 6.7 pages per case or 662 pages per judge, counting the title page. The number of opinion-pages was up 501 pages from 1985. Opinions ranged in length from 2 to 33 pages on double-spaced, letter-size paper.

Of the 589 dispositions by formal opinion, 320 or 54.3 percent were appealed from ten counties: Polk (96), Linn (37), Black Hawk and Scott (36), Pottawattamie (26), Johnson and Dubuque (20), Marshall and Woodbury (17), and Muscatine (15). During 1986, the court of appeals decided cases from 93 of the 99 counties in Iowa.

Iowa Appellate Courts -- Statistical Summary

There were 1,880 cases -- 1,415 civil and 465 criminal -- filed in the supreme court in 1986, down from 1,901 in 1985. The number of appellate case filings from 1976 to 1986 is graphically illustrated in Table 12. Since 1976, civil filings have soared 92.0 percent (737 to 1,415) while the number of criminal cases docketed has increased 5.9 percent (439 to 465). In 1986, there were over 125 filings per appellate judge.

During 1986, the supreme court and the court of appeals disposed of 2,049 cases -- 1,467 civil (including 18 attorney disciplinary cases) and 582 criminal -- up from 2,009 in 1985. Over half of the civil (777/1,467) and criminal dispositions (339/582) were by order rather than formal

opinion; 49.5 percent of these matters were dismissed by the clerk or the court, denied or consolidated; 37.4 percent were voluntarily dismissed or withdrawn. There were 1,169 cases pending (844 civil and 325 criminal) at the end of the year -- a decrease of 15 or 1.3 percent from the first of the year. The number of pending cases ready for disposition rose 4.5 percent (378 to 395) during 1986.

There were 933 dispositions by formal opinion -- 690 civil and 243 criminal. During 1986, the average case was decided about one year after it was docketed in the supreme court clerk's office. In the average case the parties required nearly seven months to file the briefs, records, etc., and make the case ready for submission to the court; the elapse time from readiness to decision was approximately five months.

The largest category of civil cases handled at the appellate level by formal opinion was domestic relations -- 215 of 672 civil cases (excluding disciplinary cases) or 32.0 percent. The number and types of other civil cases decided by formal opinion in the appellate courts were as follows: torts, 104; administrative law, 101; and contracts, 91.

The supreme court disbarred or revoked the licenses of 12 attorneys, suspended the licenses of 33 lawyers, reprimanded 45 attorneys, and censured one member of the bar. In seven instances, attorney licenses were reinstated and eighteen disciplinary cases were decided by a formal opinion of the supreme court.

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND DISCIPLINARY CASES[a]
TERMINATED BY FORMAL OPINION
SUPREME COURT OF IOWA, 1976-1986

YEAR	CIVIL[b]	CRIMINAL[c]	DISCIPLINARY[d]	TOTAL
1986	237	89	18	344
1985	245	46	13	304
1984	209	100	14	323
1983	301	149	5	455
1982	295	161	11	467
1981	208	171	4	383
1980	187	84	4	275
1979	202	81	7	290
1978	245	103	9	357
1977	252	118	4	374
1976	176	210	8	394
TOTAL	2,557	1,312	97	3,966

a. Where two or more related cases were consolidated for purposes of decision-making and resolved by one court opinion, only one of the combined cases was counted in computing the total number of dispositions by opinion. In 1986, the 344 supreme court decisions involved 371 case filings.
b. The "civil" case category in this report includes appeals from final denials of postconviction relief and all certiorari cases.
c. "Criminal" means direct appeals from final judgment in criminal cases.
d. Includes only the bar disciplinary proceedings disposed of by written opinion and published in the North Western Reporter.

TABLE 2

FORMAL DISPOSITIONS BY THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA
AS CLASSIFIED BY MODE OF REVIEW -- 1980-1986

MODE OF REVIEW	NUMBER OF FORMAL DISPOSITIONS						
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Appeal from Final Order (judgment) in District Court							
Civil Case	149	145	233	217	134	164	166
Criminal Case	75	159	149	131	86	33	79
Original Certiorari							
Civil Case	4	6	5	7	6	10	6
Criminal Case	4	3	4	2	3	3	2
Appeal from Interlocutory Ruling	10	19	15	29	16	19	11
Discretionary Review of Small Claim	5	1	3	4	--	1	--
Certified Question of Law	2	3	6	4	4	1	2
Appeal in Postconviction Relief Proceeding	8	21	17	17	16	15	9
Lawyer Disciplinary	4	4	11	5	14	13*	18
Further Review	10	15	15	23	23	38	45
Miscellaneous	4	7	9	16	11	6	6
Total Dispositions	275	383	467	455	313	303	344

*Includes one judge disciplinary case.

TABLE 3

NUMBER AND TYPE OF CASES DISPOSED OF
BY SUPREME COURT OPINION, 1980-1986

CASE TYPE	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
CIVIL							
Administrative law	31	23	41	56	31	56	56
Contracts	42	29	37	46	30	35	30
Contested child custody	10	14	13	16	7	7	10
Domestic relations not involving child custody	8	32	56	43	19	10	23
Postconviction relief	8	21	17	17	18	16	12
Property	15	16	26	11	17	18	12
Taxation	4	4	5	7	2	8	3
Tort	34	33	46	55	39	50	62
Trusts, estates, wills	9	7	9	10	10	6	2
Other	26	29	45	40	36	39	27
TOTAL CIVIL	187	208	295	301	209	245	237
CRIMINAL							
Guilty plea only	4	11	15	8	2	--	6
Sentencing only	9	19	23	30	10	10	12
Guilty plea and sentencing only	3	7	4	2	4	1	4
Other	68	134	119	109	84	35	67
TOTAL CRIMINAL	84	171	161	149	100	46	89
LAWYER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS	4	4	11	5	14	13*	18
TOTAL	275	383	467	455	323	304	344

*Includes one judge disciplinary case.

TABLE 4

NUMBER OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES: IN WORK[a], READY[b], ASSIGNED[c], AND OUT-TO-SUPREME COURT JUSTICES[d]
A COMPARISON OF CASELOADS
DECEMBER 31, 1984, 1985 AND 1986

	1984			1985			1986		
	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
IN WORK	567	258	825	535	271	806	553	221	774
READY	189	47	236*	80	17	97*	145	21	166*
ASSIGNED	20	6	26	19	7	26	20	8	28
OUT-TO-JUSTICES	29	10	39	36	5	41	27	4	31
TOTAL	805	321	1,126	670	300	970	745	254	999

a. In Work -- All cases docketed which are not yet ready for submission.
b. Ready -- All cases ready for submission.
c. Assigned -- All cases which have been assigned to the justices and will be submitted or formally presented to the court within a month.
d. Out-to-Justices -- All cases submitted to the court which have not been decided.

*For purposes of this table, the 569, 727, and 552 cases transferred to the court of appeals in 1984, 1985 and 1986, respectively, were deducted from the number of ready cases pending before the supreme court.

TABLE 5

AVERAGE DELAY (IN MONTHS) FROM THE TIME A CASE IS READY FOR SUBMISSION TO OPINION SUPREME COURT OF IOWA, 1976-1986

YEAR	TYPE OF CASE			
	CIVIL	PRIORITY CIVIL	CRIMINAL	AVERAGE DELAY
1986	4.9	3.4	3.5	4.5
1985	6.1	4.0	3.8	5.6
1984	6.2	4.1	4.1	5.4
1983	6.8	3.8	3.7	5.5
1982	7.5	4.6	3.8	5.9
1981	5.9	4.7	4.9	5.2
1980	5.2	4.3	4.8	5.0
1979	5.4	4.0	4.4	5.0
1978	8.3	4.1	4.2	6.5
1977	17.0	4.3	4.5	12.2
1976	20.2	4.0	3.8	9.0

TABLE 6

DISPOSITION OF CASES AT THE SUPREME COURT LEVEL BY ORDER OR OTHER MODE PRIOR TO FORMAL SUBMISSION TO THE COURT - 1986

TYPE OF DISPOSITION	NUMBER OF DISPOSITIONS		
	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
Voluntary dismissal or withdrawal of appeal or other review by appellant	334	81	415
Dismissal by the clerk pursuant to Rule 19, R. App. P., for failure to cure default within 15 days after notice	69	17	86
Dismissal by court for failure to comply with Rules of Appellate Procedure	--	1	1
Dismissal by court for lack of jurisdiction	13	--	13
Dismissal by court of frivolous criminal appeal pursuant to Rule 104, R. App. P.	--	138	138
Denial of petition for permission to appeal an interlocutory ruling	148	--	148
Denial of petition for writ of certiorari	44	2	46
Denial of petition for discretionary review	32	58	90
Cases transferred to the court of appeals by order of the supreme court	392	160	552
Consolidations*	19	8	27
Other	113	32	145
TOTALS	1,164	497	1,661

*For purposes of this table, cases were classified as consolidated at the time an order granting consolidation was filed.

TABLE 7

NUMBER OF CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND DISCIPLINARY
CASES DISPOSED OF BY OPINION OF THE SUPREME COURT
EN BANC AND BY DIVISION, 1984-1986

	EN BANC			DIVISION			PERCENT EN BANC		
	1984	1985	1986	1984	1985	1986	1984	1985	1986
CIVIL	22	37	39	187	208	198	10.5%	15.1%	16.5%
CRIMINAL	13	5	11	87	41	78	13.0%	10.9%	12.4%
DISCIPLINARY	14	11	7	—	2	11	100.0%	84.6%	38.9%
TOTAL	49	53	57	274	251	287	15.2%	17.4%	16.6%

TABLE 8

NUMBER OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES TRANSFERRED TO,
TERMINATED BY AND PENDING BEFORE THE IOWA COURT OF APPEALS
1977-1986

	TRANSFERRED			TERMINATED			PENDING END OF YEAR		
YEAR	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
1986	392	160	552	440	156	596	99	71	170
1985	524	203	727	459	178	637	147	67	214
1984	412	157	569	397	135	532	80	41	121
1983	330	119	449	405	150	555	65	19	84
1982	397	134	531	307	116	423	140	50	190
1981	305	149	454	348	163	511	50	32	82
1980	344	116	460	303	94	397	93	46	139
1979	263	114	377	259	120	379	52	24	76
1978	245	125	370	267	117	384	48	30	78
1977	330	95	425*	260	73	333	70	22	92
TOTAL	3,542	1,372	4,914	3,445	1,302	4,747	844	402	1,246

*Includes 69 cases -- 56 civil and 13 criminal -- transferred to the court of appeals in late 1976.

TABLE 9

NUMBER AND TYPE OF CASES DISPOSED OF BY OPINION
IOWA COURT OF APPEALS
1980-1986

CASE TYPE	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
CIVIL							
Administrative law	33	36	44	56	31	34	45
Contracts	35	39	50	54	58	74	61
Contested child custody	44	63	51	84	51	51	89
Domestic relations not involving child custody	81	94	53	87	102	106	93
Postconviction relief	10	16	12	29	27	35	31
Property	26	24	24	28	37	44	33
Taxation	3	4	4	3	9	8	4
Tort	34	35	33	28	41	37	42
Trusts, estates, wills	14	13	13	16	3	23	17
Other	16	14	17	14	36	38	20
TOTAL CIVIL	296	338	301	399	395	450	435
CRIMINAL							
Guilty plea only	3	10	3	4	4	4	2
Sentencing only	7	12	9	6	21	20	6
Guilty plea and sentencing only	2	5	--	4	2	2	1
Other	82	136	102	135	106	152	145
TOTAL CRIMINAL	94	163	114	149	133	178	154
TOTAL	390	501	415	548	528	628	589

TABLE 10

APPLICATIONS TO THE SUPREME COURT FOR FURTHER REVIEW OF A COURT OF APPEALS DECISION 1977-1986

	APPLICATIONS GRANTED			APPLICATIONS DENIED			PERCENT GRANTED
	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	
1986	48	12	60	132	89	221	21.4
1985	33	10	43	173	90	263	14.1
1984	33	11	44	135	62	197	18.3
1983	16	7	23	114	60	174	11.7
1982	12	7	19	125	48	173	9.9
1981	11	5	16	88	31	119	11.9
1980	11	2	13	106	38	144	8.3
1979	6	6	12	78	54	132	8.3
1978	17	4	21	78	38	116	15.3
1977	6	4	10	54	16	70	12.5
TOTAL	193	68	261	1,083	526	1,609	14.0

TABLE 11

AVERAGE DELAY (IN MONTHS) FROM THE TIME
A CASE IS READY FOR SUBMISSION TO OPINION
IOWA COURT OF APPEALS
1977-1986

YEAR	TYPE OF CASE			AVERAGE DELAY
	CIVIL	PRIORITY CIVIL	CRIMINAL	
1986	5.5	4.4	4.5	5.0
1985	5.8	4.8	4.7	5.2
1984	5.1	4.4	4.3	4.8
1983	6.3	5.0	5.2	5.7
1982	6.9	5.2	5.3	6.2
1981	5.8	5.0	5.0	5.5
1980	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
1979	5.2	4.2	4.6	4.9
1978	3.7	4.0	4.1	5.8
1977	16.1	4.6	4.6	12.5

TABLE 12

NUMBER OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES FILED* AT THE APPELLATE COURT LEVEL 1976-1986

YEAR	CIVIL*	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
1986	1,415	465	1,880
1985	1,362	539	1,901
1984	1,297	587	1,884
1983	1,290	491	1,781
1982	1,253	596	1,849
1981	1,175	558	1,733
1980	1,081	539	1,620
1979	1,014	493	1,507
1978	1,003	487	1,490
1977	785	446	1,231
1976	737	439	1,176
TOTAL	12,412	5,640	18,052
10-Year Increase in Percent	92.0%	5.9%	59.9%

*Includes attorney disciplinary cases.

II. TRIAL COURT

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT

The unified trial court, known as the "Iowa District Court," became operative July 1, 1973. The district court has general and original jurisdiction of all actions and proceedings, including probate and juvenile matters. Its jurisdiction is exercised by senior judges, district judges, district associate judges, alternate district associate judges, and magistrates. The salary and travel expenses of all judges and magistrates are funded by the state.

The Unified Trial Court Act requires the clerks of the district court to furnish each magistrate, associate judge, or district judge acting as a magistrate, a docket in which to enter all proceedings within their jurisdiction, except those required to be docketed with the clerks and assigned to judicial officers for disposition. The chief judge of a judicial district is authorized to order criminal proceedings combined in a centralized docket.

Magistrates

The Unified Trial Court Act created and allotted 191 part-time magistrate positions to the 99 counties in the state, ranging from one to six per county. The original allotment remained in effect until June 30, 1975. Since that date, the state court administrator has apportioned magistrates among the counties.

A magistrate appointing commission selects the magistrates to fill the positions allotted to the county. The person appointed must be an elector of the county and able to serve a full term of office before reaching the mandatory retirement age of 72. Although a license to practice law is not required, the commission must first consider licensed attorneys. In counties allotted only one such position, the appointing commission is authorized to appoint an additional magistrate and divide the statutory salary. (Adair, Howard, Ida, and Monona Counties exercised this option in 1986.) Magistrates serve a two-year term of office commencing July 1 in odd-numbered years. The apportionment made in 1985 appears in Appendix E. The same apportionment was continued in 1987 for the 1987-89 biennium.

As amended, the Unified Trial Court Act authorizes any county or combination of counties with an allotment of three or more magistrate positions to appoint a district associate judge to substitute for three part-time magistrates. The substitution may not occur if it results in the lack of either a resident district associate judge or a magistrate in one or more of the counties. The substitution is made by order of the chief judge of the judicial district on the affirmative vote of a majority of the district judges in the judicial

election district in which the county is located. District associate judges serving in lieu of magistrates are nominated, appointed and retained in the same manner as regular district associate judges. As they also have the same qualifications, rights, salary, duties, responsibilities, authority and jurisdiction as regular district associate judges, their work load is totally integrated in this report.

Jurisdiction

Magistrates have jurisdiction of the following:

1. Preliminary hearing cases. [Cases in which they act as committing magistrates on felonies and indictable misdemeanors.] (R.Cr.P. 2(4)(a), The Code.)

2. Nonindictable or simple misdemeanors, including traffic and ordinance violations. [A simple misdemeanor is a criminal offense in which the punishment does not exceed a fine of $100 or imprisonment for 30 days.]

3. Search warrant proceedings.

4. Emergency hospitalization proceedings. (Section 229.22, The Code.)

5. Lost property actions. [These include issuing a warrant directing a peace officer to appoint appraisers to fix the value of vessels, rafts, logs and lumber which have been stopped or taken up and determining the ownership of other lost property.] (Chapter 644.)

The above proceedings are all required to be entered in the docket furnished to them by the clerk or in the centralized docket for the county, if one is ordered to be maintained by the chief judge of the judicial district.

6. Small claims. [A small claim is a civil action (1) for a money judgment where the amount in controversy is $2,000 or less, exclusive of interest and costs, and (2) actions for forcible entry and detainer where no question of title to the property is involved.

The act requires the clerk of the district court to maintain the docket for small claims actions. If the action is one for money judgment and it is not disposed of by the clerk through entry of a confession of judgment, default judgment or a voluntary dismissal, it must be assigned to a judicial officer having jurisdiction of such actions. This is done by

delivering the original notice first filed with the clerk to the officer. If it is an action for forcible entry and detainer, the appearance is required before the judicial officer who must handle the entire proceeding, including an order for the issuance of a writ of eviction if the plaintiff prevails. Again, the assignment is perfected by the clerk delivering the original notice first filed and all papers in the case to the judicial officer.

The record of all actions taken by the judicial officer in either type of small claims proceeding, including notes of testimony and judgment entry, is made on the original notice to which exhibits, if any, are attached and returned to the clerk. It serves as a calendar sheet from which the clerk makes proper entries in the small claims docket and on the lien index. Small claims actions are not entered in the docket furnished to judicial officers by the clerk or in the centralized docket used for criminal proceedings.

District Associate Judges

The original act provided for 30 magistrates required to devote full time to their position. One to four positions were authorized to counties in four population categories ranging from 35,000 to over 200,000. The 25 municipal court judges holding office June 30, 1973, became district associate judges and satisfied the requirement of a regular full-time magistrate in the county of their residence. Upon the death, resignation, retirement, removal or nonretention of a district associate judge, a full-time magistrate was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Effective January 1, 1981, full-time magistrates were renamed district associate judges. District associate judges serve four-year terms and stand for retention in office in their judicial election district the same as district judges.

In counties having only one district associate judge, the county magistrate appointing commission is authorized to appoint an alternate district associate judge to act in the temporary absence of a district associate judge. Such alternate is paid on a per diem basis by the state for days of actual service rendered. In 1985, an alternate district associate judge served in Dickinson, Marshall, and Warren Counties.

The number of district associate judges by judicial election district and county is illustrated on the next page.

Judicial Election District	County	District Associate Judges
1A	Dubuque	2
1B	Black Hawk	3
2A	Cerro Gordo	1
2B	Marshall	1
2B	Webster	1
2B	Story	2
3A	Dickinson	1
3B	Woodbury	3
4	Pottawattamie	3
5A	Jasper	1
5A	Warren	1
5C	Polk	6
6	Johnson	1
6	Linn	4
7	Clinton	1
7	Muscatine	1
7	Scott	3
8A	Wapello	1
8B	Des Moines	2
8B	Lee	1
	TOTAL	39

Jurisdiction

District associate judges have the same jurisdiction as judicial magistrates. In addition, they have jurisdiction of:

1. Civil actions for money judgments where the amount in controversy does not exceed $5,000;

2. Indictable (serious and aggravated) misdemeanors;

3. Felony violations of section 321.281 (operating while intoxicated -- OWI); and

4. Juvenile cases when designated as a judge of the juvenile court by the chief judge of the judicial district.

While exercising such additional jurisdiction, they are not only required to employ district judges' practice and procedure but, as the cases are docketed with the clerk of the district court, they must be assigned and delivered to the judge with a calendar sheet on which to report the disposition of the case.

Trial by Jury and Appeal Provisions

A defendant charged with a nonindictable or simple misdemeanor is entitled to a trial by a six-member jury if he or she files a written jury demand at least ten days before the time set for trial. Failure to make such demand constitutes a waiver of jury. The plaintiff may appeal only upon a finding of invalidity of an ordinance or statute and the defendant only upon a judgment of conviction. If the original action was tried by a lay-magistrate, the district or district associate judge shall try the case anew; a case tried by a district judge, district associate judge or judicial magistrate admitted to the bar is appealed to a district judge on the record. [Effective July 1, 1987, all simple misdemeanor appeals from a decision of a magistrate shall be on the record. H.F. 612, 1987 Iowa Acts.] Either party may appeal from the judgment of the district judge to the supreme court in the same manner as from a judgment in a prosecution by indictment.

A small claims action is tried before the judicial officer to whom it is assigned without the right to a jury. Either party may appeal to a district court judge who is required to hear the matter on the record. If it appears the trial record is incomplete, the district court judge may take additional testimony and evidence. The right of either party to appeal from the judgment of the district judge is entirely within the discretionary power of the supreme court.

District Court Judges

In January 1986, there were 99 district judges in Iowa. Under the judgeship formula computed in February 1986, 133 judgeships were authorized. However, the provisions of Iowa Code section 602.18 limited the maximum number of judgeships to 99.

In 1986, the Iowa Legislature adopted a new judgeship formula and authorized a total of 100 district judges, effective January 1, 1987. The latest computation of the judgeship formula (March 1987) authorized a total of 105 judgeships. The old and new statutory formulas and a copy of the application of the formula in 1986 and 1987 appear at pages 38 and 39 of this report.

For purposes of administration and ordinary judicial functions, the state is divided into eight judicial districts (Appendix D) and into 14 judicial election districts for purposes stated in the footnote to the map appearing on page 35. With 99 judges serving in the eight judicial districts in 1986, the population spread per judge ranged from 25,714 in the 5th District to 32,950 in the 4th. [Appendix C]

Jurisdiction

District judges possess the full jurisdiction of the trial court, including the jurisdiction of magistrates. While exercising the latter, they are required to employ the practice and procedure for magistrates. Under the Iowa Probate Code they are the only judges sitting in probate.

Senior Judges

Effective July 1, 1979, the Sixty-eighth General Assembly established a senior judge program whereby retired supreme court justices, court of appeals judges, district court judges and district associate judges who qualify agree to work up to 13 weeks per year until age 78. The supreme court may not assign a senior judge judicial duties on a court superior to the highest court to which he or she was appointed prior to retirement. A senior judge may not be assigned to the court of appeals or the supreme court except to serve in the temporary absence of a member of that court. A senior judge may not practice law.

While serving on temporary assignment, a senior judge is paid no salary but continues to receive monthly judicial retirement annuities. The senior judge program provides a hedge against inflation by mandating an increase in judicial annuity whenever the current salary of active judges is raised. There is no provision for an increase in judicial annuity for judges who do not participate in the senior judge program.

During 1986, two supreme court justices -- M. L. Mason and C. Edwin Moore -- thirteen district judges -- John N. Hughes, Paul E. Hellwege, Robert O. Frederick, Dale Missildine, R. K. Stohr, Charles W. Antes, Luther T. Glanton, Jr., Dennis D. Damsgaard, Ansel Chapman, T. H. Nelson, M. C. Herrick, L. John Degnan, and B. C. Sullivan -- and one district associate judge -- Don A. Petrucelli -- served as senior judges in Iowa. In this report, the work of these judges is combined with the caseload of the judicial officers with whom they worked.

Clerks of District Court

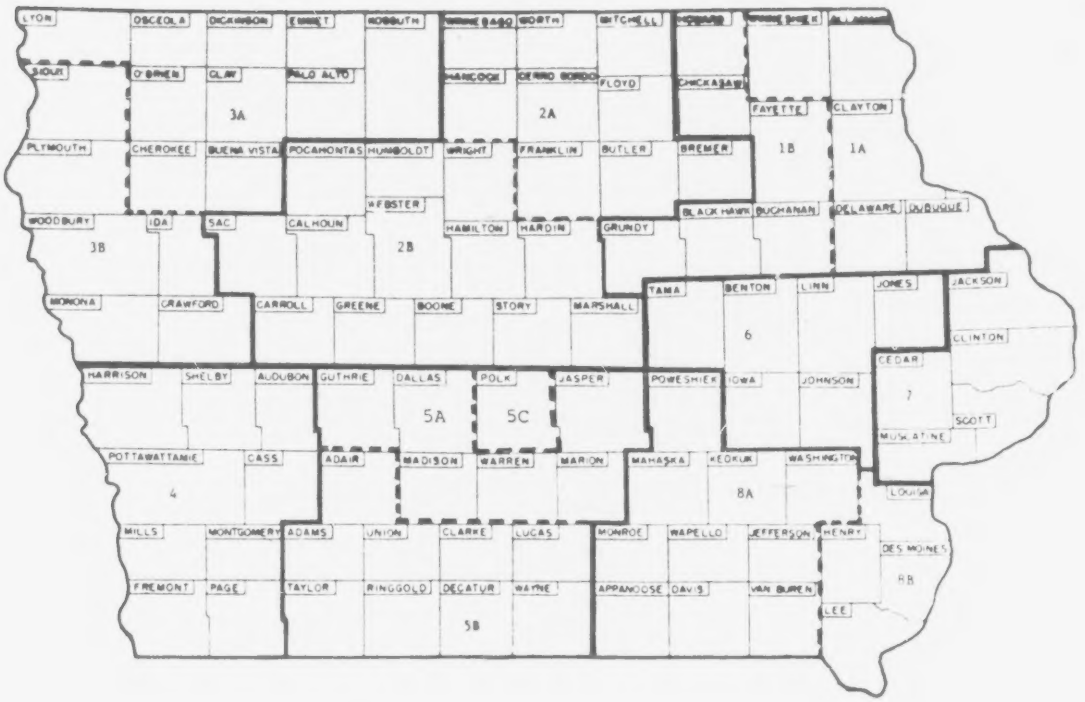
The clerk's office in the 99 counties performed two important functions during 1986 which reduced the work load of the judicial officers in each county. These were:

1. Kept the small claims docket and, through the entry of confessions of judgment, default judgments, and voluntary dismissals in actions for money judgment,

avoided the necessity of assigning many such cases to judicial officers. [Tables 12(d), 14(e) and 15]

2. Maintained a traffic and scheduled violations office where violations were admitted and disposed of upon payment of the minimum fine and costs before the time specified for appearance before the court on a uniform citation and complaint issued to the alleged violator. [Table 16]

IOWA'S 8 JUDICIAL DISTRICTS AND 14 JUDICIAL ELECTION DISTRICTS*



*Judicial election districts are for the purpose of nomination, appointment and election of district judges, the application of the judgeship formula, the removal of magistrates and the appointment and election of district associate judges.

Judgeship Formula

The judgeship formula was amended by Ch. 1148, 1986 Iowa Acts. The new formula gives equal weight to the population and filings rather than taking the greater of the two factors as provided by the previous formula. The new formula authorizes one judge for every 550 combined civil and criminal filings (3-year average) in judicial election districts having a city of 50,000 or more population and one judge for every 450 such filings in districts not having a city that large. The population factor allows one judge for every 40,000 residents. The statutory cap on the number of district judges was raised by one, from 99 to 100, effective January 1, 1987.

Application of the old and new judgeship formulas for 1986 and 1987, respectively, is illustrated by the tables that follow.

THE APPLICATION OF THE JUDGESHIP FORMULA UNDER SECTION 602.6201, SUBSECTION 3, 1985 IOWA CODE

Based on (1) three-year average combined civil, criminal and juvenile filings (1983-85), with exclusions listed in section 602.6201, subsection 3, 1985 Iowa Code, divided by the factor opposite the classification of the population of the largest county in the judicial election district as appears in footnotes a, b, c and d, or (2) one judge for each 40,000 or major fraction of population of entire election district, whichever results in the largest number of judges.

JUDICIAL ELECTION DISTRICT	NUMBER BASED ON (1) ABOVE	NUMBER BASED ON (2) ABOVE	FORMULA JUDGESHIPS*	RESIDENT JUDGES
1A[b]	3,165 (5.06)	169,100 (4.23)	5	4
1B[b]	6,310 (10.10)	225,500 (5.64)	10	8
2A[c]	4,045 (7.70)	169,800 (4.25)	8	6
2B[c]	7,688 (14.64)	324,400 (8.11)	15	11
3A[d]	3,722 (7.84)	156,300 (3.91)	8	5
3B[b]	5,750 (9.20)	196,400 (4.91)	9	6
4[b]	5,694 (9.11)	198,400 (4.96)	9	6
5A[d]	3,735 (7.86)	155,400 (3.89)	8	4
5B[d]	2,406 (5.07)	79,400 (1.99)	5	4
5C[a]	9,546 (13.17)	308,400 (7.71)	14[e]	13[e]
6[b]	8,302 (13.28)	331,300 (8.28)	13	11
7[b]	8,548 (13.68)	299,400 (7.49)	14	10
8A[d]	4,118 (8.67)	171,900 (4.30)	9	6
8B[c]	3,201 (6.10)	118,800 (2.97)	6	5
STATE TOTALS	76,230	2,904,500	133	99

a. 200,000 or more population - one judgeship per 725 filings or major fraction.
b. 85,000 - 199,999 population - one judgeship per 625 filings or major fraction.
c. 45,000 - 84,999 population - one judgeship per 525 filings or major fraction.
d. 0 - 44,999 population - one judgeship per 475 filings or major fraction.
e. The seat of state government is entitled to one additional fraction.

*Although the 1986 computation of the judgeship formula created thirty-four (34) vacancies, the provisions of section 602.6201, subsection 10, 1985 Iowa Code, limits the maximum number of judgeships to ninety-nine (99) and, consequently, prohibits the vacancies from being filled.

Prepared February 26, 1986, by: State Court Administrator, Statehouse, Des Moines, IA 50319.

NUMBER OF DISTRICT JUDGES AUTHORIZED BY THE JUDGESHIP FORMULA BASED EQUALLY ON A THREE-YEAR AVERAGE OF COMBINED CIVIL AND CRIMINAL FILINGS AND POPULATION

JUDICIAL ELECTION DISTRICT	FILINGS	POPULATION	FORMULA JUDGESHIPS[c]	RESIDENT JUDGES
1A[a]	2,721 (4.95)	172,900 (4.32)	5	4
1B[a]	6,202 (11.28)	220,900 (5.52)	8	8
2A	3,867 (8.59)	170,200 (4.26)	6	6
2B	7,381 (16.40)	318,500 (7.96)	12	11
3A	3,408 (7.57)	154,100 (3.85)	6	5
3B[a]	5,437 (9.89)	195,300 (4.88)	7	6
4[a]	5,000 (9.09)	197,700 (4.94)	7	6
5A	3,415 (7.59)	157,200 (3.93)	6	5
5B	2,099 (4.66)	77,500 (1.94)	3	4
5C[a,b]	8,768 (15.94)	305,300 (7.63)	13	13
6[a]	7,797 (14.18)	327,900 (8.20)	11	11
7[a]	7,534 (13.70)	297,900 (7.45)	11	10
8A	3,685 (8.19)	170,600 (4.27)	6	6
8B	2,584 (5.74)	117,400 (2.94)	4	5
STATE TOTALS	69,898	2,883,400	105	100

[a]District with a city of 50,000 or more population.
[b]One additional judgeship for seat of government.
[c]Equal weight given to filings and population. In districts containing a city of 50,000 or more population (i.e., 1A, 1B, 3B, 4, 5C, 6 and 7), there shall be one judgeship per 550 combined civil and criminal filings, with exclusions listed in Iowa Code section 602.6201(3), as amended by ch. 1148, 1986 Iowa Acts, and 40,000 population, or major fraction of either. In all other districts there shall be one judgeship per 450 filings or 40,000 population. The filing and population fractions are added together and then divided by two.

ANALYSIS OF STATISTICS

Regular Civil and Criminal Cases

For the purpose of the following discussion, regular civil cases include all law, equity and special proceedings docketed in the office of the clerk except in the small claims docket. An appeal from a decision of a judicial magistrate in a small claims action also is considered a regular civil case.

Regular criminal cases include all felony and indictable misdemeanors (serious and aggravated). A felony is a public offense which is, or in the discretion of the court may be, punished by imprisonment in the state penitentiary, men's reformatory or women's reformatory. An indictable misdemeanor is a public offense, less than a felony, in which the punishment exceeds a fine of $100 or imprisonment for more than 30 days in the county jail. An appeal from a decision or verdict in a nonindictable or simple misdemeanor case becomes a regular criminal case when docketed by the clerk as a regular criminal action.

A total of 98,418 regular civil and criminal cases were docketed in the clerks' offices during 1986. This was a 3.5 percent increase from the 95,121 civil and criminal cases docketed in 1985. A comparison of cases docketed for 1985 and 1986 reveals that while criminal filings rose 10.4 percent (41,116 to 45,391) civil filings decreased 1.8 percent (54,005 to 53,027).

A number of regular civil cases and indictable misdemeanors filed in district court were assigned to district associate judges for disposition. The total number of regular civil and indictable criminal dispositions by district and district associate judges in 1985 was 100,829 -- an increase of 9.3 percent over the 92,250 cases disposed of in 1985. There were 2,417 more cases pending December 31, 1986, than on January 1 of that year; the number of pending cases decreased in all but the 2nd and 5th Districts. [Tables 1, 2(a) and 3(a)]

District Judges' Activities

During 1986, district court judges disposed of 54,284 regular civil cases: 533 or 1.0 percent by trial to jury, 4,903 or 9.0 percent by trial to court, and 48,848 or 89.8 percent without trial. The number of civil dispositions per judge ranged from 457 in the 2nd District to 652 in the 7th. Statewide, there were 548 civil dispositions per district court judge, up from 515 in 1985. [Tables 2(a), (b) and (d)]

During 1986, district judges disposed of 19,387 regular criminal cases: 447 or 2.3 percent by trial to jury, 405 or 2.1 percent by trial to court and 18,535 or 95.6 percent without trial. The number of criminal dispositions per judge ranged from 124 in the 8th District to 287 in the 3rd. Statewide, there were 196 criminal dispositions per district court judge. [Tables 3(a), (b) and (d)]

The average number of civil and criminal cases disposed of per judge (744), with the rank of each district, is shown on Table 4. The 3rd District recorded the highest number of civil/criminal dispositions per judge (888) while the 8th District had the lowest number of dispositions per judge (601).

District Associate Judges' Activities

There were 347 regular civil cases assigned to district associate judges during 1986 -- a 28.5 percent increase from the 270 cases assigned in 1985. During 1986, the judges of limited jurisdiction disposed of 348 regular civil cases, 107 or 30.7 percent by trial to court, and 241 or 69.3 percent without trial. On a per judge basis, dispositions ranged from 0 in the 4th District to 75 in the 3rd. [Tables 2(a), (c) and (d)]

During 1986, 26,508 regular criminal cases (indictable misdemeanors and simple misdemeanors on appeal) were assigned to district associate judges as compared to 23,804 assigned to such judicial officers in 1985. Of the 26,810 criminal cases disposed of by district associate judges in 1986, 276 or 1.0 percent were resolved by trial to jury, 316 or 1.2 percent by trial to court, and 26,218 or 97.8 percent without trial. On a per judge basis, dispositions ranged from 496 in the 2nd District to 985 in the 6th. [Tables 3(a), (c) and (d)]

Civil and Criminal Filings by Case Type

Dissolution filings (and modifications) represented 31.8 percent (16,844) of the 53,027 civil cases docketed in the district court in 1986. [Table 5] These cases, combined with other actions involving domestic relations such as child support recovery (7,722) and domestic abuse (170), accounted for nearly one half (46.6 percent) of all civil cases filed in the district court.

Table 5 also shows that 792 (3.0 percent) of the 26,067 small claims rulings by judicial officers of limited jurisdiction were appealed on the record to the district court, pursuant to Iowa Code section 631.13. Such appeals comprised 1.4 percent of the civil case filings.

In the criminal area, the 18,286 first and second offense drunken driver cases (OWI--operating while intoxicated) represented nearly half of the indictable misdemeanor filings and 40.3 percent of all the regular criminal cases, i.e., felonies, indictable misdemeanors (serious and aggravated), and simple misdemeanors on appeal. [Table 6]

The 7,692 felony filings represented 16.9 percent of the 45,391 criminal cases docketed. Only 0.2 of one percent (517) of the 236,179 simple misdemeanors handled by district associate judges and magistrates were appealed to the district court for a new trial, pursuant to rule 54, Rules of Criminal Procedure. Such appeals comprised 1.1 percent of the criminal filings.

Pending Regular Civil and Criminal Cases

Of the 48,545 regular civil cases pending at the end of the year, 11,190 or 23 percent were over 18 months old. During 1986, the number of civil cases pending over 18 months decreased by 1,939 or 14.8 percent. [Appendix A] The proportion of pending civil cases over 18 months old ranged from 16 percent in the 8th District to 31 percent in the 3rd. Except in the 5th and 6th Judicial Districts, there were less civil cases pending at the end of the year than at the beginning.

There were 806 less criminal cases pending on December 31, 1986, than on January 1. Of the 17,683 regular criminal cases pending at the end of 1986, 3,482 or 25 percent were over 18 months old -- 35 percent (6,140) had been pending 3 to 18 months. [Appendix B] The 3rd District had the highest percentage of cases pending over 90 days (65 percent); the 4th District had the lowest percentage of criminal cases over 90 days old (26 percent).

Probate Matters

The district judges exercise the probate jurisdiction of the unified trial court. There were 788 trusteeships opened in 1986 -- down 18.7 percent from the previous year. [Table 7(a)] The number of trusteeships opened ranged from 45 in the 4th District to 143 in the 5th. During 1986, 3,779 guardianships and conservatorships were opened -- down 5.3 percent from 1985; the number of cases ranged from 236 in the 4th to 828 in the 5th. Some 19,226 decedent estates were opened in 1986 -- a decrease of 603 or 3.0 percent. The number of estates opened varied from 1,278 in the 4th District to 3,578 in the 2nd. Statewide, there were 20 jury trials and 261 trials to court in contested probate matters. [Table 7(a)]

Of the 18,068 estates closed during 1986, 55 percent were closed within one year, 33 percent from 1-3 years, and 12 percent after three years. In 1986, 61 percent of the estates were settled within one year in the 1st District. [Table 7(b)] The number of decedents' estates closed during 1986 was 1,158 less than the number of new estates opened. [Table 7(a) and (b)]

Juvenile Matters

Juvenile matters are heard by district judges, judicial referees, and district associate judges designated by the chief judge of the judicial district to act as judges of the juvenile court. There were 6,367 juvenile petitions filed in the district court clerks' offices during 1986 -- 307 more petitions than in 1985. [Table 8(a)] Juvenile petitions were classified into four general categories: delinquency (3,590), child in need of assistance or CHINA (2,732), family in need of assistance or FINA (15), and interstate compacts or extradition (30). Two-thirds of the FINA petitions were filed in the 5th and 7th Districts.

The number and type of formal hearings in juvenile matters are illustrated in Table 8(b). Figures show there were 3,861 adjudication hearings, 5,695 disposition hearings, 5,806 review hearings, 1,367 shelter/detention hearings and 3,689 other hearings, for a grand total of 20,418 -- up 2,921 from 1985. Thirty-seven percent of the juvenile hearings were handled by district associate judges, 60 percent were conducted by referees and 3 percent by district judges.

Termination of Parental Rights

For statistical purposes, termination of parental rights cases were separated from regular juvenile matters involving delinquent children and minors or families in need of assistance. As indicated in Table 9, there were 849 petitions for termination of parental rights filed in the district court during 1986 -- an increase of 52 cases from 1985. Twenty-five percent (211) involved involuntary or contested proceedings. The largest number of termination cases (198) was docketed in the 5th District; the fewest petitions (54) were filed in the 4th District. There were 801 formal hearings held on these matters -- up 94 or 13.3 percent from 1985.

Hospitalization Hearings

Table 10 shows the number and type of hospitalization hearings. There were 4,700 hospitalization hearings in Iowa during 1986 -- 141 involuntary minor, 2,278 involuntary adult, 1,134 emergency, and 1,147 substance abuse. Eighty-two percent of the hearings were held by judicial hospitalization referees.

General Activities of District Associate Judges

Other than regular civil and criminal cases, termination of parental rights and juvenile matters discussed above, a total of 143,429 cases were docketed or assigned and 141,827 cases were disposed of by the 39 associate judges during 1986. There were 47,979 cases pending at the end of the year. The number of cases docketed and assigned ranged from 4,418 in the 4th District to 72,914 in the 5th. The total number of simple misdemeanor and small claims cases pending at the end of the year varied from 716 in the 8th District to 34,751 in the 5th. The number of each type of case filed, terminated and pending during 1986, appears in Tables 12(a) through 12(d).

As committing magistrates for indictable offenses, district associate judges conducted 18,420 initial appearance proceedings and 245 preliminary hearings in indictable criminal cases, pursuant to rule 2, Rules of Criminal Procedure. [Table 12(a)] Over two-thirds of the initial appearances were held in the 5th, 6th, and 7th Districts; all but five preliminary hearings by associate judges occurred in the 5th and 8th Districts.

There were 10,584 nonindictable state cases (simple misdemeanors) carried over from 1985. During 1986, 50,111 were docketed as compared to 45,727 in 1985. Of the 48,599 state cases terminated during 1986, the judges disposed of 63 or 0.1 percent by trial to jury, 1,715 or 3.5 percent by trial to court and 46,821 or 96.3 percent without trial. The number of simple misdemeanor state cases pending at the end of 1986 (12,096) was 1,512 more than the number pending at the beginning of the year. During 1986, the associate judges of the 5th District had by far the largest number of nonindictable state cases docketed, terminated, and pending. [Table 12(b)]

Some 35,428 simple misdemeanor ordinance cases were pending from 1985. During 1986, 60,039 were docketed and 59,997 were disposed of: 32 or less than 0.1 percent by trial to jury, 2,080 or 3.5 percent by trial to court, and 57,885 or 96.5 percent without trial. The number of pending cases increased slightly from 35,428 to 35,470. [Table 12(c)]

During 1986, district associate judges entertained 456 search warrant applications and conducted 479 seized property hearings. Nearly two-thirds of the applications for search warrants handled by district associate judges occurred in the 2nd, 5th, 6th, and 7th Districts; over half of the seized property hearings occurred in the 1st District. [Table 14(d)] There were also 102 hospitalization hearings held by the 39 district associate judges.

There were 13,557 small claims assigned and 13,509 cases terminated by associate judges during 1986. [Table 12(d)] The judges resolved 5,028 or 37.2 percent by trial to the court and 8,481 or 62.8 percent without trial. Of those disposed of without trial, 7,650 or 90.2 percent were defaulted and 831 or 9.8 percent were either dismissed or transferred. Over half of the small claims cases handled by such judges were assigned and disposed of in the 5th District.

Magistrates

In 1986, 160,064 cases were docketed or assigned to 168 magistrates; they disposed of 157,282 or 936 cases per magistrate. [Table 13] The number of dispositions per magistrate ranged from 731 (5th District) to 1,150 (1st District). Approximately one-fourth of the cases pending at the end of the year were in the 1st District. [Note: Judicial districts vary in population from 197,700 (4th) to 540,000 (5th) and in the number of magistrates from 13 (7th) to 35 (2nd).]

As shown in Table 14(a), there were 19,092 initial appearances and 741 preliminary hearings conducted by magistrates in indictable criminal cases. While the largest number of such actions were in the 2nd District, magistrates in the 7th District had the fewest number of initial appearances and magistrates in the 1st District had the smallest number of preliminary hearings.

There were 82,210 nonindictable state cases (simple misdemeanors) docketed before magistrates in 1986. [Table 14(b)] The magistrates disposed of 80,470 cases -- 124 or 0.1 percent by trial to jury, 6,988 or 8.7 percent by trial to court, and 73,358 or 91.2 percent without trial. The 8th

District had the most jury trials (32) while the 1st District reported the least (2). There were 16,310 nonindictable cases docketed in the 2nd District; only 6,050 were docketed in the 7th District.

Statistics on nonindictable ordinance cases disclose that 43,819 cases were docketed, 43,145 were disposed, and 4,973 were still pending on December 31, 1986. Ninety-two percent of the ordinance cases were disposed of without a contested trial to a judge or jury. The 24 magistrates in the 1st District handled 13,518 ordinance cases or nearly one-third of the state total. [Table 14(c)]

Overall, magistrates terminated 123,615 simple misdemeanors in 1986 compared to 117,844 in 1985. Over two-thirds of the simple misdemeanors handled by all judicial officers involved traffic matters.

Magistrates entertained 583 applications for search warrants, conducted 208 seized property hearings and handled 6 lost property actions during 1986. [Table 14(d)] There were 675 search warrant applications and 393 seized property hearings before magistrates in 1985.

Statewide, for all judicial officers, the number of search warrant applications decreased 13.2 percent (1,356 to 1,177); the number of seized property hearings dropped 19.0 percent (1,033 to 837) since 1985. Magistrates in the 2nd and 8th Districts received the largest number of search warrant applications while those in the 2nd District conducted the most seized property hearings. Considering the work of all judicial officers on these matters, the highest volume of applications for search warrants was in the 2nd District; the 1st District had the highest number of seized property hearings.

As shown in Table 14(e), magistrates disposed of 12,558 small claims cases in 1986. Sixty-two percent (7,820) of the small claims were tried before the court; the remaining 4,738 cases (3,613 defaults and 1,125 dismissals or transfers) were disposed of without a trial. The 2nd District had the largest number of small claims assigned to magistrates tried to court (1,716); the 7th District the highest number of cases pending (697) before magistrates at the end of the year.

District Court Clerks

The 99 clerks of the district court played an important role not only in record keeping but in the handling of small claims (dismissals and defaults) and scheduled violations. As noted above, under the Unified Trial Court Act, district court clerks are authorized to docket and assign small claims and enter dismissals and defaults. Cases involving forcible entry and detainer must be handled by a judge.

District court clerks also are responsible for handling scheduled violations in which the defendant mails in or delivers his or her admission, scheduled fine, surcharge and court cost to the clerk's scheduled violations office before the time specified on the citation and complaint for court appearance. In addition, clerks are the custodians of collection boxes used at weigh stations for the deposit of fines and costs in cases involving weight and other non-moving scheduled violations of commercial carriers.

Table 15 shows that more small claims were disposed of by clerks (43,316) than judges (26,067). While clerks in the 2nd and 3rd Districts took care of nearly three-fourths of the small claims terminated in their district, in the 4th District they handled only 52.4 percent of the small claims dispositions. Overall, 62.4 percent of the small claims were disposed of by district court clerks.

As noted in Table 16, the district court clerks disposed of 450,169 scheduled violations without the attention or assistance of any judicial officer -- 23,867 more than the number processed by clerks in 1985. On the average, a district court clerk disposed of 4,547 scheduled violations in 1986. The number of scheduled violations ranged from 239 in Ringgold County to 96,174 in Polk County.

Summary of Trial Court Statistics

There were 53,027 regular civil cases (over $2,000 and small claims on appeal) and 45,391 regular criminal cases (indictable misdemeanors, felonies, and simple misdemeanors on appeal) filed in the district court during 1986. This represented a 10.4 percent increase in civil filings and a 1.8 percent decrease in civil filings since 1985. [Appendix F]

There was a total of 100,829 civil/criminal dispositions in 1986. The number of civil cases terminated rose by 3,278 or 6.4 percent (51,354 to 54,632); the number of criminal dispositions decreased 13.0 percent (40,896 to 46,197) from 1985 figures. There were 533 jury trials and 5,010 court trials of civil cases; in criminal matters there were 723 jury

trials and 1,015 court trials. Statistics show that 89.9 percent of the civil cases and 96.2 percent of the criminal cases were disposed of without trial.

There were 48,545 civil cases pending at the end of 1986 compared with 50,150 on January 1 -- a decrease of 1,605 or 3.2 percent. The number of pending criminal cases decreased 4.5 percent (18,520 to 17,683). Of the cases pending statewide, 55 percent of the civil cases and 35 percent of the criminal cases were 3 to 18 months old; 23 percent of the civil cases and 25 percent of the criminal cases were over 18 months old.

In 1986, there were 744 civil/criminal dispositions per district judge -- 52 less than in 1985. [Appendix H] District court judges in the 3rd District had the highest rate of civil/criminal dispositions per judge (888); in the 8th and 2nd Districts the average number of dispositions was 601 and 603, respectively. [Table 10]

A review of the type of cases docketed in the district court shows that 46.6 percent of the 53,027 civil filings involved domestic relations -- dissolutions and modifications (16,844), uniform support actions (7,722), and domestic abuse (170). [Table 5] Parenthetically, the largest category of criminal cases was first and second offense OWI (operating while intoxicated). OWI comprised 40.3 percent or 18,286 of the 45,391 criminal filings. [Table 6] Appeals of simple misdemeanors (596) and small claims appeals (792) represented only 1.1 percent of the criminal filings and 1.4 percent of the civil filings, respectively. Statistically, only 0.3 percent of the 232,211 simple misdemeanors and 3.0 percent of the 26,067 small claims cases disposed of by judicial officers were appealed to the district court for a second ruling.

The number of probate matters opened dropped slightly (24,790 to 23,793) during 1986; there were 788 trusteeships, 3,779 guardianships and conservatorships, and 19,226 estates. Corresponding figures for 1985 were 969, 3,992, and 19,829, respectively. The number of estates closed rose 3.7 percent from 17,420 to 18,068; 55 percent of the estates were closed within a one-year period.

There was a 5.1 percent increase in the number of juvenile petitions filed (6,060 to 6,367) compared with 1985 figures; parenthetically, the number of formal juvenile hearings jumped 16.7 percent (17,497 to 20,418). Sixty percent of the juvenile hearings were conducted by juvenile referees; more than one-third were handled by district associate judges; district judges were credited with only 3 percent of the

juvenile hearings. In addition to the regular juvenile cases, there were 849 petitions and 861 formal hearings involving termination of parental rights; there were 797 and 707 such matters the previous year.

The average district judge terminated 744 regular civil/criminal cases, and tried 64 contested civil/criminal cases during 1986. The average district associate judge terminated 696 civil/criminal cases and tried 26 contested civil/criminal matters.

There were 232,211 nonindictable state and ordinance cases disposed of in 1986 -- down .9 percent from the number (234,266) handled in 1985. Ninety-four percent of the simple misdemeanor cases were disposed of without a contested trial. Judicial officers held 37,512 initial appearances in indictable criminal cases, conducted 986 preliminary hearings, entertained 1,177 applications for search warrants, conducted 837 seized property hearings, disposed of 25 lost property actions and handled 4,700 hospitalization hearings. Judicial officers disposed of 26,067 small claims actions while the clerks of the district court handled 43,316. There were 450,169 scheduled violations processed in the clerks' offices.

TABLE 1

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES[a] DOCKETED,
DISPOSED OF[b] AND PENDING IN 1986
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985[c]

(Hereafter referred to as Regular Civil
and Criminal Cases)

DISTRICT[b]	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED BY CLERK	DISPOSED OF	PENDING DECEMBER 31	CHANGE IN PENDING
1	8,326	13,909	14,121	8,114	-212
2	10,055	13,860	13,793	10,122	+67
3	9,714	11,750	12,136	9,328	-386
4	4,299	6,316	6,796	3,819	-480
5	13,192	19,761	19,186	13,767	+575
6	9,103	12,887	13,219	8,771	-332
7	8,998	11,297	12,657	7,638	-1,360
8	4,952	8,638	8,921	4,669	-283
1986 Statewide	68,639	98,418	100,829	66,228	-2,411
1985 Statewide	66,052[d]	95,121	92,250	68,923	+2,871

a. Includes felonies and indictable misdemeanors (serious and aggravated) and actions for money judgments, other than small claims, where the amount in controversy exceeds $2,000. Also includes simple misdemeanors and small claims appealed to the district court. Does not include juvenile or probate cases.

b. There were 16 senior judges, 99 district court judges, 39 district associate judges, and three alternate district associate judges serving Iowa during all or part of 1986. In this report, the activity of the senior judges is included in the terminations by district and district associate judges with whom they worked. Dispositions by alternate district associate judges are combined with the productivity of district associate judges.

c. See map showing districts and 1985 population, Appendix D.

d. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1985, due to inventory corrections.

TABLE 2

(a) REGULAR CIVIL CASES

ACTIVITY DURING 1986 WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	ASSOCIATE JUDGES[a] ASSIGNED TO	ASSOCIATE JUDGES[a] DISPOSED BY	DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT JUDGES	TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	PENDING DECEMBER 31
1	6,181	6,865	68	65	6,925	6,990	6,056
2	8,033	7,755	44	43	7,776	7,819	7,969
3	6,893	6,186	84	75	6,611	6,686	6,393
4	3,212	3,357	—	—	3,843	3,843	2,726
5	11,118	11,650	29	53	11,479	11,532	11,236
6	5,290	6,331	38	29	5,877	5,906	5,715
7	5,754	5,879	36	34	6,523	6,557	5,076
8	3,669	5,004	48	49	5,250	5,299	3,374
1986 Statewide	50,150[b]	53,027	347	348	54,284	54,632	48,545
1985 Statewide	47,752	54,005	270	353	51,001	51,354	50,403

a. Includes the work of 39 district associate judges and three alternate district associate judges. The nine district associate judges substituting for judicial magistrates served Polk (2), Dickinson, Story, Woodbury, Warren, Linn, Pottawattamie, and Des Moines Counties during 1985; alternate district associate judges served in Dickinson, Marshall, and Warren Counties. As district associate judges serving in lieu of magistrates have the same qualifications, jurisdiction, and responsibilities as the other district associate judges, they are considered one and the same and counted as regular district associate judges in these tables.

b. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1985, due to inventory corrections.

TABLE 2

(b) REGULAR CIVIL CASES
DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT JUDGES

Methods of Disposition During 1986
With Totals Compared to Those of 1985

DISTRICT	JUDGES	TOTAL DISPOSED OF	TRIED TO JURY	PERCENT TRIED TO JURY	TRIED TO COURT	PERCENT TRIED TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL	PERCENT WITHOUT TRIAL
1	12	6,925	51	0.7%	538	7.8%	6,336	91.5%
2	17	7,776	62	0.8%	886	11.4%	6,828	87.8%
3	11	6,611	57	0.9%	369	5.6%	6,185	93.5%
4	6	3,843	42	1.1%	411	10.7%	3,390	88.2%
5	21	11,479	166	1.5%	829	7.2%	10,484	91.3%
6	11	5,877	60	1.0%	486	8.3%	5,331	90.7%
7	10	6,523	44	0.7%	721	11.0%	5,758	88.3%
8	11	5,250	51	1.0%	663	12.6%	4,536	86.4%
1986 Statewide	99	54,284	533	1.0%	4,903	9.0%	48,848	89.8%
1985 Statewide	99	51,001	453	0.9%	5,094	10.0%	45,454	89.1%

TABLE 2

(c) REGULAR CIVIL CASES
DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Methods of Disposition During 1986
With Totals Compared to Those of 1985

DISTRICT	JUDGES	TOTAL DISPOSED OF	TRIED TO JURY	PERCENT TRIED TO JURY	TRIED TO COURT	PERCENT TRIED TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL	PERCENT WITHOUT TRIAL
1	5	65	—	—	7	10.8%	58	89.2%
2	5	43	—	—	30	69.8%	13	30.2%
3	4	75	—	—	1	1.3%	74	98.7%
4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	8	53	—	—	24	45.3%	29	54.7%
6	5	29	—	—	5	17.2%	24	82.8%
7	5	34	—	—	10	29.4%	24	70.9%
8	4	49	—	—	30	61.2%	19	38.8%
1986 Statewide	39	348	—	—	107	30.7%	241	69.3%
1985 Statewide	39	353	—	—	58	16.4%	295	83.6%

TABLE 2

(d) REGULAR CIVIL CASES DISPOSED OF PER JUDGE DURING 1986
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	DISTRICT JUDGES			ASSOCIATE JUDGES		
	NUMBER	DISPOSITIONS	PER JUDGE (AVERAGE)	NUMBER	DISPOSITIONS	PER JUDGE (AVERAGE)
1	12	6,925	577	5	65	13
2	17	7,776	457	5	44	9
3	11	6,611	601	4	75	19
4	6	3,843	641	3	—	—
5	21	11,479	547	8	53	7
6	11	5,877	534	5	29	6
7	10	6,523	652	5	34	7
8	11	5,250	477	4	49	12
1986 Statewide	99	54,284	548	39	349	9
1985 Statewide	99	51,001	515	39	353	9

TABLE 3

(a) REGULAR CRIMINAL CASES

ACTIVITY DURING 1986 WITH TOTALS COMPARED
TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	ASSOCIATE JUDGES* ASSIGNED TO	ASSOCIATE JUDGES* DISPOSED BY	DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT JUDGES	TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	PENDING DECEMBER 31
1	2,145	7,044	4,541	4,536	2,595	7,131	2,058
2	2,022	6,105	2,479	2,482	3,492	5,974	2,153
3	2,821	5,564	2,529	2,296	3,154	5,450	2,935
4	1,087	2,959	1,642	1,542	1,411	2,953	1,093
5	2,074	8,111	4,603	4,596	3,058	7,654	2,531
6	3,813	6,556	4,496	4,926	2,387	7,313	3,056
7	3,244	5,418	3,830	4,170	1,930	6,100	2,562
8	1,283	3,634	2,388	2,262	1,360	3,622	1,295
1986 Statewide	18,489	45,391	26,508	26,810	19,387	46,197	17,683
1985 Statewide	18,300[a]	41,116	23,804	22,923	17,973	40,896	18,520

a. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1985, due to inventory corrections.

* Includes the work of district associate judges who handle indictable misdemeanors (serious and aggravated).

TABLE 3

(b) REGULAR CRIMINAL CASES
DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT JUDGES

Methods of Disposition During 1986
With Totals Compared to Those of 1985

DISTRICT	JUDGES	TOTAL DISPOSED OF	TRIED TO JURY	PERCENT TRIED TO JURY	TRIED TO COURT	PERCENT TRIED TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL	PERCENT WITHOUT TRIAL
1	12	2,595	38	1.5%	219	8.4%	2,338	90.1%
2	17	3,492	65	1.9%	124	3.5%	3,303	94.6%
3	11	3,154	36	1.1%	40	1.3%	3,078	97.6%
4	6	1,411	12	0.8%	23	1.6%	1,376	97.5%
5	21	3,058	114	3.7%	96	3.2%	2,848	93.1%
6	11	2,387	55	2.3%	99	4.1%	2,233	93.6%
7	10	1,930	89	4.6%	25	1.3%	1,816	94.1%
8	11	1,360	38	2.8%	73	5.4%	1,249	91.8%
1986 Statewide	99	19,387	447	2.3%	699	3.6%	18,241	94.1%
1985 Statewide	99	17,973	472	2.6%	741	4.1%	16,760	93.3%

TABLE 3

(c) REGULAR CRIMINAL CASES
DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Methods of Disposition During 1986
With Totals Compared to Those of 1985

DISTRICT	JUDGES	TOTAL DISPOSED OF	TRIED TO JURY	PERCENT TRIED TO JURY	TRIED TO COURT	PERCENT TRIED TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL	PERCENT WITHOUT TRIAL
1	5	4,536	24	0.5%	62	1.4%	4,450	98.1%
2	5	2,482	52	2.1%	27	1.1%	2,403	96.8%
3	4	2,296	3	0.1%	37	1.6%	2,256	98.3%
4	3	1,542	11	0.7%	15	1.0%	1,516	98.3%
5	8	4,596	41	0.9%	10	0.2%	4,545	98.9%
6	5	4,926	66	1.4%	41	0.8%	4,819	97.8%
7	5	4,170	44	1.1%	4	0.1%	4,122	98.8%
8	4	2,262	35	1.5%	120	5.3%	2,107	93.2%
1986 Statewide	39	26,810	276	1.0%	316	1.2%	26,218	97.8%
1985 Statewide	39	22,923	296	1.3%	273	1.2%	22,354	97.5%

TABLE 3

(d) REGULAR CRIMINAL CASES DISPOSED OF PER JUDGE DURING 1986
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	DISTRICT JUDGES			ASSOCIATE JUDGES		
	NUMBER	DISPOSITIONS	PER JUDGE (AVERAGE)	NUMBER	DISPOSITIONS	PER JUDGE (AVERAGE)
1	12	2,595	216	5	4,536	907
2	17	3,492	205	5	2,482	496
3	11	3,154	287	4	2,296	574
4	6	1,411	235	3	1,542	514
5	21	3,058	146	8	4,596	575
6	11	2,387	217	5	4,926	985
7	10	1,930	193	5	4,170	834
8	11	1,360	124	4	2,262	566
1986 Statewide	99	19,387	196	39	26,810	687
1985 Statewide	99	17,973	182	39	22,923	588

TABLE 4

COMPARISON OF TOTAL 1986 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASELOAD[a]
PER DISTRICT AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATE JUDGE
WITH RANK OF DISTRICT
IN PARENTHESIS
(Adjusted to the nearest whole case of matter.)

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF JUDGES	NUMBER OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS (Per Judge) DISTRICT JUDGES		NUMBER OF JUDGES	NUMBER OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS (Per Judge) DISTRICT ASSOCIATE JUDGES	
1	12	793	(4)	5	920	(2)
2	17	603	(7)	5	505	(8)
3	11	888	(1)	4	593	(4)
4	6	876	(2)	3	514	(7)
5	21	692	(6)	8	581	(5)
6	11	751	(5)	5	991	(1)
7	10	845	(3)	5	841	(3)
8	11	601	(8)	4	578	(6)
1986 Statewide	99	744		39	696	
1985 Statewide	99	692		39	597	

a. Computed from the sum of such cases disposed of by district and district associate judges, as shown by Tables 2(b), 2(c), 3(b) and 3(c).

TABLE 5

NUMBER OF CIVIL FILINGS (AND DISPOSITIONS)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT DURING 1986
BY TYPE OF CASE WITH TOTALS
COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DIS-TRICT	DISSOLUTIONS	UNIFORM SUPPORT	DOMESTIC ABUSE	OTHER EQUITY AND LAW	SMALL CLAIMS APPEALS	TOTAL
1	1,672 (1,693)	1,496 (1,398)	18 (9)	3,585 (3,790)	94 (100)	6,865 (7,059)
2	2,500 (2,529)	1,267 (1,291)	34 (30)	3,816 (3,810)	138 (159)	7,755 (7,819)
3	1,630 (1,647)	1,008 (1,343)	49 (52)	3,386 (3,540)	113 (104)	6,186 (6,686)
4	1,213 (1,298)	426 (562)	2 —	1,666 (1,933)	50 (50)	3,357 (3,843)
5	3,868 (3,691)	1,330 (1,090)	11 (13)	6,283 (6,574)	158 (164)	11,650 (11,532)
6	2,068 (1,901)	586 (589)	13 (13)	3,581 (3,320)	83 (83)	6,331 (5,906)
7	2,099 (2,091)	1,026 (1,437)	13 (9)	2,682 (2,958)	59 (62)	5,879 (6,557)
8	1,794 (1,871	583 (688)	30 (28)	2,531 (2,642)	66 (70)	5,004 (5,299)
1986 Statewide	16,844 (16,721)	7,722 (8,398)	170 (154)	27,530 (28,567)	761 (792)	53,027 (54,632)
1985 Statewide	16,875 (16,802)	8,223 (7,389)	246 (146)	27,934 (26,233)	727 (784)	54,005 (51,354)

Legend: Disoolutions -- original actions and modifications.
Uniform Support -- actions pursuant to the Uniform Support of Dependents Law. (URESA), Chapter 252A, The Code.

TABLE 6

NUMBER OF CRIMINAL FILINGS (AND DISPOSITIONS)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT DURING 1986 BY CASE TYPE
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DIS-TRICT	OWI (1st/2nd)	OTHER INDICTABLE MISDEMEANORS	FELONIES	SIMPLE MISDE-MEANOR APPEALS	TOTAL
1	3,374 (3,347)	2,669 (2,736)	968 (1,008)	33 (40)	7,044 (7,131)
2	2,321 (2,323)	2,568 (2,408)	1,151 (1,170)	65 (73)	6,105 (5,974)
3	2,271 (2,165)	2,186 (1,983)	1,053 (1,216)	54 (86)	5,564 (5,450)
4	1,045 (1,073)	1,382 (1,268)	481 (557)	51 (55)	2,959 (2,953)
5	3,014 (2,910)	3,764 (3,447)	1,262 (1,225)	71 (72)	8,111 (7,654)
6	2,617 (2,835)	2,655 (2,832)	1,135 (1,499)	149 (147)	6,556 (7,313)
7	2,196 (2,358)	2,273 (2,692)	929 (1,024)	20 (26)	5,418 (6,100)
8	1,448 (1,358)	1,399 (1,331)	713 (836)	74 (97)	3,634 (3,622)
1986 State-wide	18,286 (18,369)	18,896 (18,697)	7,692 (8,535)	517 (596)	5,391 (46,197)
1985 State-wide	16,285 (16,177)	16,289 (16,095)	7,970 (8,005)	572 (620)	41,116 (40,896)

Legend: OWI — operating while intoxicated.
Other indictable misdemeanors — includes serious and aggravated misdemeanors other than OWI.

TABLE 7

(a) PROBATE MATTERS

NUMER OPENED AND TRIALS ON CONTESTS DURING 1986
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	JUDGES	TRUSTEESHIPS OPENED	GUARDIANSHIPS & CONSERVATORSHIPS OPENED	ESTATES OPENED	TRIALS TO JURY	TRIALS TO COURT
1	12	79	463	2,429	3	28
2	17	137	609	3,578	4	61
3	11	108	475	2,601	—	22
4	6	45	236	1,278	2	8
5	21	143	828	2,928	4	59
6	11	123	448	2,469	—	8
7	10	68	317	1,658	4	38
8	11	85	403	2,285	3	37
1986 Statewide	99	788	3,779	19,226	20	261
1985 Statewide	99	969	3,992	19,829	7	273

TABLE 7

(b) DECEDENTS' ESTATES CLOSED*

NUMBER CLOSED DURING 1986 AND AGE AT TIME OF CLOSING
WITH TOTALS COMPARED WITH THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	ESTATES CLOSED	PERCENT WITHIN 1 YEAR	PERCENT FROM 1-3 YEARS	AFTER 3 YEARS
1	2,520	61%	27%	12%
2	3,404	52%	38%	10%
3	2,503	58%	33%	9%
4	1,100	54%	35%	11%
5	2,930	53%	39%	8%
6	1,667	53%	38%	9%
7	1,335	52%	28%	20%
8	2,609	58%	27%	15%
1986 Statewide	18,068	55%	33%	12%
1985 Statewide	17,420	56%	32%	12%

*In addition, there were 1,214 trusteeships and 3,058 guardianships and conservatorships closed in 1986.

TABLE 8

(a) NUMBER AND TYPE OF JUVENILE PETITIONS

FILED DURING 1986 WITH TOTALS COMPARED
TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	DELINQUENCY	CHINA	FINA	IC	TOTAL
1	342	276	—	—	618
2	391	399	3	3	796
3	399	241	1	3	644
4	220	166	—	1	387
5	748	615	5	8	1,376
6	456	321	—	—	777
7	596	321	5	10	932
8	438	393	1	5	837
1986 Statewide	3,590	2,732	15	30	6,367
1985 Statewide	3,540	2,447	21	52	6,060

Legend: CHINA -- Child in need of assistance.
FINA — Family in need of assistance.
IC -- Interstate compacts (extradition).
(For definition of these terms, see section 232.2, The Code.)

TABLE 8

(b) NUMBER OF FORMAL HEARINGS

IN JUVENILE MATTERS DURING 1986
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	ADJUDICATION	DISPOSITION	REVIEW	D/S	OTHER	TOTAL
1	480	508	547	183	548	2,266
2	410	716	427	88	592	2,233
3	381	361	702	154	494	2,092
4	346	192	260	106	222	1,126
5	846	1,683	683	173	434	3,819
6	520	712	1,927	360	895	4,414
7	448	1,019	477	219	238	2,401
8	430	504	783	84	266	2,067
1986 Statewide	3,861	5,695	5,806	1,367	3,689	20,418
1985 Statewide	3,460	4,900	4,840	1,269	3,028	17,497

Legend: Adjudication hearing -- Section 232.2(2), The Code.
Disposition hearing -- Section 232.2(16), The Code.
Review hearing -- Section 212.102(6), The Code.
D/S -- Detention/Shelter hearing -- Section 232.2(14)(46), The Code.
Other -- Includes such proceedings as: hearings on motions for change of venue and placement, motions for evaluation, change of counsel, motions to continue or suppress evidence and contempt of court and probation violation hearings.

TABLE 9

NUMBER OF PETITIONS FILED AND NUMBER AND TYPE OF FORMAL HEARINGS HELD IN CASES INVOLVING VOLUNTARY AND INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS, 1986

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF PETITIONS FILED	NUMBER AND TYPE OF FORMAL HEARINGS		
		TRIAL DETERMINATION	REVIEW	TOTAL
1 V*	93	62	6	68
I**	12	22	2	24
2 V	86	59	13	72
I	14	18	4	22
3 V	77	39	—	39
I	20	18	3	21
4 V	18	14	—	14
I	36	20	—	20
5 V	133	132	5	137
I	65	61	2	63
6 V	67	34	20	54
I	43	36	75	111
7 V	88	73	—	73
I	8	5	—	5
8 V	76	49	11	60
I	13	15	3	18
1986 V	638	462	55	517
Statewide I	211	195	89	284
Totals	849	657	144	801

*V -- Voluntary or uncontested termination proceeding.
**I -- Involuntary or contested termination proceeding.

TABLE 10

NUMBER AND TYPE OF HOSPITALIZATION HEARINGS DURING 1986
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	INVOLUNTARY MINOR	INVOLUNTARY ADULT	EMERGENCY	SUBSTANCE ABUSE	TOTAL
1	31	382	194	221	828
2	17	366	202	200	785
3	10	260	177	131	578
4	2	71	61	31	165
5	12	345	124	200	681
6	22	387	155	189	753
7	28	265	107	85	485
8	19	202	114	90	425
1986 Statewide	141	2,278	1,134	1,147	4,700
1985 Statewide	130	1,875	1,108	1,086	4,199

TABLE 11

TOTAL ACTIVITY[a] OF ASSOCIATE JUDGES DURING 1986 ON MATTERS OTHER THAN REGULAR CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES, TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND JUVENILE CASES WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	JUDGES	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED OR ASSIGNED	DISPOSED OF	PENDING DECEMBER 31
1	5	1,508	13,168	13,320	1,356
2	5	638	8,773	8,669	742
3	4	1,663	13,243	12,866	2,040
4	3	1,132	4,418	4,362	1,188
5	8	30,916	72,914	69,079	34,751
6	5	6,057	15,651	15,595	6,113
7	5	3,549	10,109	12,585	1,073
8	4	914	5,153	5,351	716
1986 Statewide	39	46,377	143,429	141,827	47,979
1985 Statewide	39	50,851	145,106	149,580	46,377

a. Includes nonindictable (simple) misdemeanors, lost property actions, small claims, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, search warrant applications, and seized property and hospitalization hearings. Pending figures include misdemeanors and small claims only.

NOTE: For complete and detailed information on the various types of cases combined in this table, see Tables 12(a) through 12(d), 14(d) and 9.

TABLE 12

(a) INITIAL APPEARANCE PROCEEDINGS AND PRELIMINARY HEARINGS[a]

1986 ACTIVITY OF ASSOCIATE JUDGES
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	JUDGES	NUMBER OF	
		INITIAL APPEARANCES[a]	PRELIMINARY HEARINGS[b]
1	5	1,707	—
2	5	1,231	5
3	4	1,966	—
4	3	—	—
5	8	6,674	67
6	5	2,900	—
7	5	3,111	—
8	4	831	173
1986 Statewide	39	18,420	245
1985 Statewide	39	17,551	229

a. Refers to the initial court appearance of a person charged with a criminal offense above a simple misdemeanor. See rule 2(1), R. Cr. P.

b. Refers to a preliminary hearing held in a criminal case above a simple misdemeanor. See rule 2(4), R. Cr. P.

TABLE 12

(b) NONINDICTABLE — STATE CASES

1986 ACTIVITY OF ASSOCIATE JUDGES
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	JUDGES	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	DISPOSED OF BY				PENDING DECEMBER 31
				TRIAL TO JURY	TRIAL TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL		
						GUILTY PLEA	DISMISSED/ TRANSFERRED	
1	5	1,151	4,692	11	84	3,704	1,058	986
2	5	399	2,950	2	191	2,200	512	444
3	4	1,109	5,816	3	245	2,968	2,284	1,425
4	3	835	2,063	4	10	1,402	568	914
5	8	2,093	23,172	23	661	13,624	6,259	4,698
6	5	2,539	5,281	11	200	3,558	1,620	2,431
7	5	1,905	4,396	8	313	3,252	2,004	724
8	4	553	1,741	1	11	1,138	670	474
1986 Statewide	39	10,584	50,111	63	1,715	31,846	14,975	12,096
1985 Statewide	39	13,067	45,727	57	1,846	32,678	13,629	10,584

TABLE 12

(c) NONINDICTABLE — ORDINANCE CASES

1986 ACTIVITY OF ASSOCIATE JUDGES
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	JUDGES	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	DISPOSED OF BY				PENDING DECEMBER 31
				TRIAL TO JURY	TRIAL TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL		
						GUILTY PLEA	DISMISSED/ TRANSFERRED	
1	5	281	4,872	2	166	3,473	1,248	264
2	5	226	3,944	-	176	2,895	819	280
3	4	532	4,900	10	273	3,669	881	599
4	3	230	1,117	-	41	771	327	208
5	8	28,822	35,566	11	986	21,099	12,242	30,050
6	5	3,336	5,593	6	244	4,795	405	3,479
7	5	1,644	2,391	3	181	1,966	1,536	349
8	4	357	1,656	—	13	1,344	415	241
1986 Statewide	39	35,428	60,039	32	2,080	40,012	17,873	35,470
1985 Statewide	39	37,425	66,215	15	2,003	45,854	20,340	35,428

TABLE 12

(d) SMALL CLAIMS

1986 ACTIVITY OF ASSOCIATE JUDGES
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	JUDGES	PENDING JANUARY 1	ASSIGNED BY CLERK	DISPOSED OF BY			PENDING DECEMBER 31
				TRIAL TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL		
					DEFAULT	DISMISSED/ TRANSFERRED	
1	5	76	1,590	352	918	290	106
2	5	13	518	318	137	58	18
3	4	22	535	190	272	79	16
4	3	67	1,166	534	487	146	66
5	8	1	7,336	2,361	4,959	14	3
6	5	182	1,690	1,005	433	231	203
7	5	—	77	77	—	—	—
8	4	4	645	191	444	13	1
1986 Statewide	39	365	13,557	5,028	7,650	831	413
1985 Statewide	39	359	14,254	5,164	8,324	760	365

TABLE 13

TOTAL ACTIVITY OF MAGISTRATES DURING 1986
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	MAGISTRATES ACTUAL[a]	(AUTHORIZED)	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED OR ASSIGNED[b]	DISPOSED	PENDING DECEMBER 31
1	24[c]	(23)	4,257	27,636	27,591	4,302
2	35	(38)	2,067	28,008	27,906	2,169
3	26[c]	(30)	1,591	19,869	19,545	1,915
4	16	(19)	1,085	15,084	14,783	1,386
5	19[c]	(27)	1,325	13,888	13,879	1,334
6	14	(17)	1,714	23,426	23,057	2,083
7	13	(13)	828	14,038	12,718	2,148
8	21	(24)	1,855	18,115	17,803	2,167
1986 Statewide	168	(191)	14,722	160,064	157,282	17,504
1985 Statewide	168	(191)	15,423[d]	148,295	148,993	14,725

a. The 1986 figures indicate the actual number of magistrates serving in each district; figures in parenthesis show the number of magistrate positions authorized. See footnote a, Table 2(a) for counties using substitute district associate judges and Appendix E for the July 1, 1985, allocation of magistrates. The 1986 activity of district associate judges substituting for magistrates is included in the work load of regular district associate judges as illustrated in Table 11 rather than the business of magistrates presented in this table.

b. For purposes of this table, all search warrant applications, seized property hearings, lost property actions, preliminary hearings, initial appearances, and hospitalization hearings docketed in 1986 were considered disposed of by the end of the year. Pending figures refer only to small claims and simple misdemeanors (nonindictable state and ordinance cases).

c. During 1986, Ida, Adair, Howard, and Monona Counties exercised the option provided in Iowa Code section 602.6402, and divided their one magistrate position into two jobs leaving 168 magistrates to fill 164 salaried positions.

d. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1985, due to inventory corrections.

TABLE 14

(a) INITIAL APPEARANCE PROCEEDINGS AND PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

1986 ACTIVITY OF MAGISTRATES
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF INITIAL APPEARANCES[a]	PRELIMINARY HEARINGS[b]
1	2,136	20
2	4,183	206
3	2,409	95
4	1,378	101
5	1,922	121
6	2,867	27
7	1,352	39
8	2,845	132
1986 Statewide	19,092	741
1985 Statewide	16,290	860

a. Refers to the initial court appearance of a person charged with a criminal offense above a simple misdemeanor. See rule 2(1), R. Cr. P.

b. Refers to a preliminary hearing held in a criminal case above a simple misdemeanor. See rule 2(4), R. Cr. P.

TABLE 14

(b) NONINDICTABLE — STATE CASES

1986 ACTIVITY OF MAGISTRATES
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	DISPOSED OF BY				PENDING DECEMBER 31
			TRIAL TO JURY	TRIAL TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL		
					GUILTY PLEA	DISMISSED/ TRANSFERRED	
1	1,877	10,313	9	710	6,849	2,707	1,915
2	1,544	16,310	26	1,864	10,294	4,059	1,611
3	1,327	11,422	3	712	7,703	2,675	1,656
4	629	7,640	2	568	4,931	2,000	768
5	1,151	8,451	19	860	5,865	1,690	1,168
6	1,357	12,117	18	978	8,298	2,480	1,700
7	297	6,050	15	585	3,614	1,212	921
8	1,413	9,907	32	711	6,853	2,128	1,596
1986 Statewide	9,595	82,210	134	6,988	54,407	18,951	11,335
1985 Statewide	9,634[a]	74,982	107	6,960	50,323	17,630	9,596

a. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1985, due to inventory corrections.

TABLE 14

(c) NONINDICTABLE — ORDINANCE CASES

1986 ACTIVITY OF MAGISTRATES
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	DISPOSED OF BY				PENDING DECEMBER 31
			TRIAL TO JURY	TRIAL TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL		
					GUILTY PLEA	DISMISSED/ TRANSFERRED	
1	2,354	13,528	2	517	10,210	2,789	2,364
2	350	4,279	3	504	3,298	488	336
3	181	4,298	1	309	3,497	491	181
4	434	5,245	–	387	4,003	688	601
5	136	2,266	1	399	1,601	252	149
6	256	6,669	10	562	5,093	957	303
7	226	3,994	2	416	2,456	816	530
8	362	3,540	5	289	2,798	301	509
1986 Statewide	4,299	43,819	24	3,383	32,956	6,782	4,973
1985 Statewide	4,621	42,501	34	3,314	30,990	8,485	4,298

TABLE 14

(d) SEARCH WARRANT APPLICATIONS AND SEIZED PROPERTY HEARINGS BY TYPE OF JUDICIAL OFFICER

1986 ACTIVITY OF MAGISTRATES WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	SEARCH WARRANT APPLICATIONS				SEIZED PROPERTY HEARINGS			
	DJ	DAJ	M	TOTAL	DJ	DAJ	M	TOTAL
1	56	50	41	147	—	247	34	281
2	8	66	132	206	—	6	52	58
3	5	23	102	130	—	1	34	35
4	—	45	27	72	—	27	2	29
5	39	64	81	184	140	14	18	172
6	16	63	33	112	10	124	10	144
7	11	106	15	132	—	1	16	17
8	3	39	152	194	—	59	42	101
1986 Statewide	138	456	583	1,177	150	479	208	837
1985 Statewide	193	488	675	1,356	125	515	393	1,033

Legend: DJ — District Judges
DAJ -- District Associate Judges
M — Magistrates

There were also 6 lost property actions handled by magistrates and 19 such actions disposed of by district associate judges in 1986.

TABLE 14

(e) SMALL CLAIMS

1986 ACTIVITY OF MAGISTRATES
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	PENDING JANUARY 1	ASSIGNED BY CLERK	DISPOSED OF BY			PENDING DECEMBER 31
			TRIAL TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL		
				DEFAULT	DISMISSED/ TRANSFERRED	
1	26	1,452	1,049	365	41	23
2	173	2,782	1,716	716	301	222
3	83	1,434	860	446	133	78
4	22	677	380	256	46	17
5	38	967	773	99	116	17
6	101	1,695	788	753	175	80
7	305	2,498	1,355	530	221	697
8	80	1,421	899	448	92	62
1986 Statewide	828	12,926	7,820	3,613	1,125	1,196
1985 Statewide	1,168[a]	12,586	7,760	3,723	1,440	831

a. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1985, due to inventory corrections.

TABLE 15

SMALL CLAIMS DOCKET MAINTAINED BY THE CLERK DURING 1986
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	DISPOSED OF BY		PENDING DECEMBER 31
			CLERK	JUDICIAL OFFICERS[a]	
1	1,506	7,413	4,716	3,015	1,188
2	2,248	11,552	8,413	3,246	2,141
3	1,210	7,948	5,966	1,980	1,212
4	734	3,974	2,032	1,849	829
5	2,233	16,937	8,938	8,322	1,910
6	1,366	7,503	4,166	3,385	1,318
7	807	6,594	4,547	2,183	671
8	1,299	6,544	4,538	2,087	1,218
1986 Statewide	11,403	68,465	43,316	26,067	10,485
1985 Statewide	11,592	73,752	46,747	27,171	11,426

a. Includes small claims dispositions by magistrates and judges.

TABLE 16

NUMBER OF SCHEDULED VIOLATIONS[a]

Handled Exclusively by the District Court Clerks (per county)

County	Number 1986	1985	County	Number 1986	1985
Adair	1,831	1,696	Jefferson	2,165	2,210
Adams	970	1,004	Johnson	15,567	16,156
Allamakee	689	1,062	Jones	1,667	1,969
Appanoose	1,364	885	Keokuk	502	427
Audubon	668	453	Kossuth	1,781	1,268
Benton	3,195	3,749	Lee	3,721	3,565
Black Hawk	13,907	13,982	Linn	19,077	18,965
Boone	3,066	2,575	Louisa	1,635	1,040
Bremer	2,881	2,187	Lucas	849	906
Buchanan	1,904	1,993	Lyon	891	948
Buena Vista	3,717	3,422	Madison	1,073	1,272
Butler	2,251	1,680	Mahaska	3,659	2,904
Calhoun	845	760	Marion	5,732	5,273
Carroll	4,279	3,250	Marshall	4,164	3,893
Cass	4,387	4,288	Mills	701	2,056
Cedar	13,725	14,563	Mitchell	917	720
Cerro Gordo	11,797	10,589	Monona	1,896	1,315
Cherokee	2,471	1,833	Monroe	1,445	1,477
Chickasaw	1,945	1,877	Montgomery	1,593	1,508
Clarke	6,665	6,441	Muscatine	6,721	4,155
Clay	3,151	2,554	O'Brien	1,730	1,593
Clayton	2,736	2,761	Osceola	885	913
Clinton	6,131	5,463	Page	904	841
Crawford	3,193	2,968	Palo Alto	1,163	965
Dallas	4,386	4,627	Plymouth	5,387	3,435
Davis	1,193	1,258	Pocahontas	697	636
Decatur	2,251	1,926	Polk	96,174	94,198
Delaware	3,205	3,720	Pottawattamie	14,332	14,304
Des Moines	4,834	4,435	Poweshiek	3,142	2,711
Dickinson	2,941	3,107	Ringgold	239	242
Dubuque	6,231	6,049	Sac	2,614	2,487
Emmet	692	636	Scott	24,233	20,297
Fayette	3,126	2,910	Shelby	1,196	1,259
Floyd	1,767	1,949	Sioux	2,814	2,694
Franklin	4,264	3,841	Story	7,299	7,940
Fremont	1,676	1,843	Tama	3,239	3,256
Greene	1,578	1,354	Taylor	440	431
Grundy	2,907	1,851	Union	1,936	2,000
Guthrie	907	639	Van Buren	712	531
Hamilton	4,670	4,521	Wapello	4,912	3,344
Hancock	1,115	1,007	Warren	4,364	3,974
Hardin	1,926	2,144	Washington	2,044	1,746
Harrison	5,274	5,530	Wayne	804	819
Henry	2,910	2,494	Webster	2,610	2,886
Howard	846	896	Winnebago	670	558
Humboldt	1,136	864	Winneshiek	1,659	1,138
Ida	1,021	885	Woodbury	13,851	14,062
Iowa	3,310	3,400	Worth	4,488	3,754
Jackson	2,123	2,060	Wright	684	723
Jasper	5,134	4,557			
			TOTALS	450,169	426,302

a. Scheduled violations are defined in section 805.8, The Code.

APPENDIX A

NUMBER AND AGE OF CIVIL CASES[a]
PENDING DECEMBER 31, 1986
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	TOTAL NUMBER PENDING	NUMBER OF CASES PENDING (IN PERCENT)		
		90 DAYS OR LESS	3-18 MONTHS	OVER 18 MONTHS
1	6,056	1,697 (28%)	2,893 (48%)	1,466 (24%)
2	7,969	1,692 (21%)	4,202 (53%)	2,075 (26%)
3	6,393	1,141 (18%)	3,261 (51%)	1,991 (31%)
4	2,726	590 (22%)	1,596 (59%)	540 (20%)
5	11,236	2,286 (20%)	6,971 (62%)	1,979 (18%)
6	5,715	1,140 (20%)	3,189 (56%)	1,386 (24%)
7	5,076	1,020 (20%)	2,843 (56%)	1,213 (24%)
8	3,374	922 (27%)	1,912 (57%)	540 (16%)
1986 Statewide	48,545	10,488 (22%)	26,867 (55%)	11,190 (23%)
1985 Statewide	50,403	11,347 (23%)	25,927 (51%)	13,129 (26%)

a. Includes civil cases above a small claim and small claims on appeal.

APPENDIX B

NUMBER AND AGE OF CRIMINAL CASES[a] PENDING DECEMBER 31, 1986 WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1985

DISTRICT	TOTAL NUMBER PENDING	NUMBER OF CASES PENDING (IN PERCENT)		
		90 DAYS OR LESS	3-18 MONTHS	OVER 18 MONTHS
1	2,058	906 (44%)	662 (32%)	490 (24%)
2	2,153	922 (43%)	822 (38%)	409 (19%)
3	2,935	1,031 (35%)	1,098 (37%)	806 (28%)
4	1,093	804 (74%)	227 (21%)	62 (5%)
5	2,531	1,444 (57%)	787 (31%)	300 (12)
6	3,056	1,277 (42%)	1,210 (40%)	569 (18%)
7	2,562	1,003 (39%)	834 (33%)	725 (28%)
8	1,295	674 (52%)	500 (39%)	121 (9%)
1986 Statewide	17,683	8,061 (45%)	6,140 (35%)	3,482 (25%)
1985 Statewide	18,520	7,783 (42%)	6,728 (36%)	4,009 (22%)

a. Includes criminal cases above a small misdemeanor and simple misdemeanors on appeal.

APPENDIX C

POPULATION PER DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

DISTRICT	JUDGES	DISTRICT POPULATION[a]	POPULATION PER JUDGE
1	12	393,800	32,817
2	17	488,700	28,747
3	11	349,400	31,763
4	6	197,700	32,950
5	21	540,000	25,714
6	11	327,900	29,809
7	10	297,900	29,790
8	11	288,000	26,181
Statewide	99	2,883,400	29,125

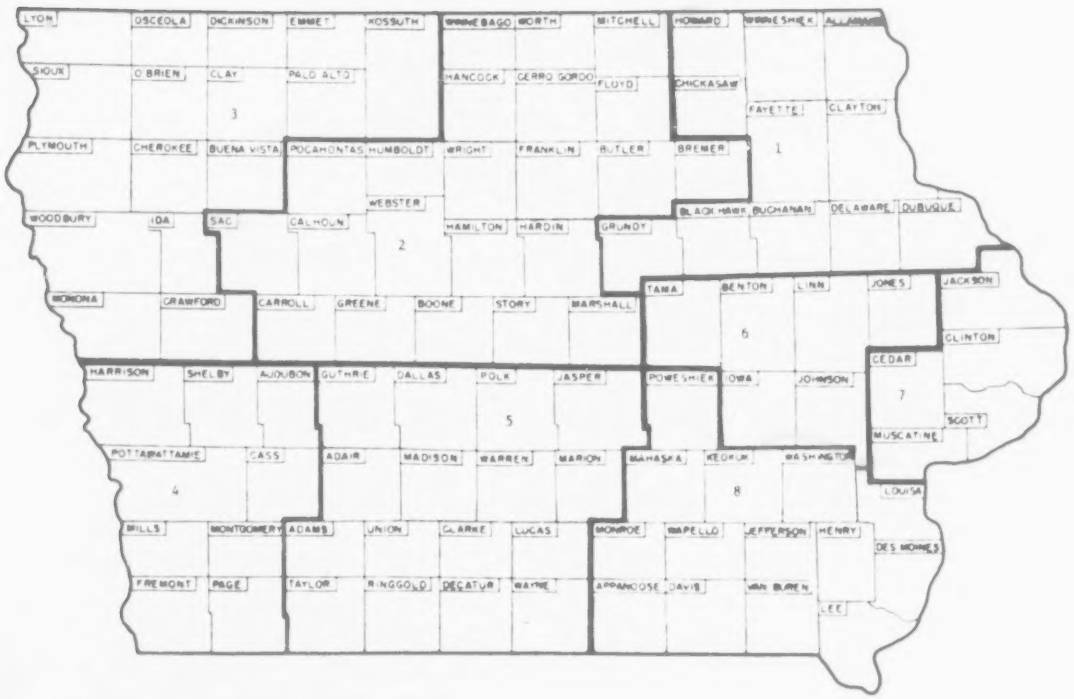
a. Official 1985 population statistics -- U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Iowa Office of Planning and Programming.

APPENDIX D

IOWA'S EIGHT JUDICIAL DISTRICTS — POPULATION*

First District	393,800	Fifth District	540,000
Second District	488,700	Sixth District	327,900
Third District	349,400	Seventh District	297,900
Fourth District	197,700	Eighth District	288,000

STATE TOTAL -- 2,883,400

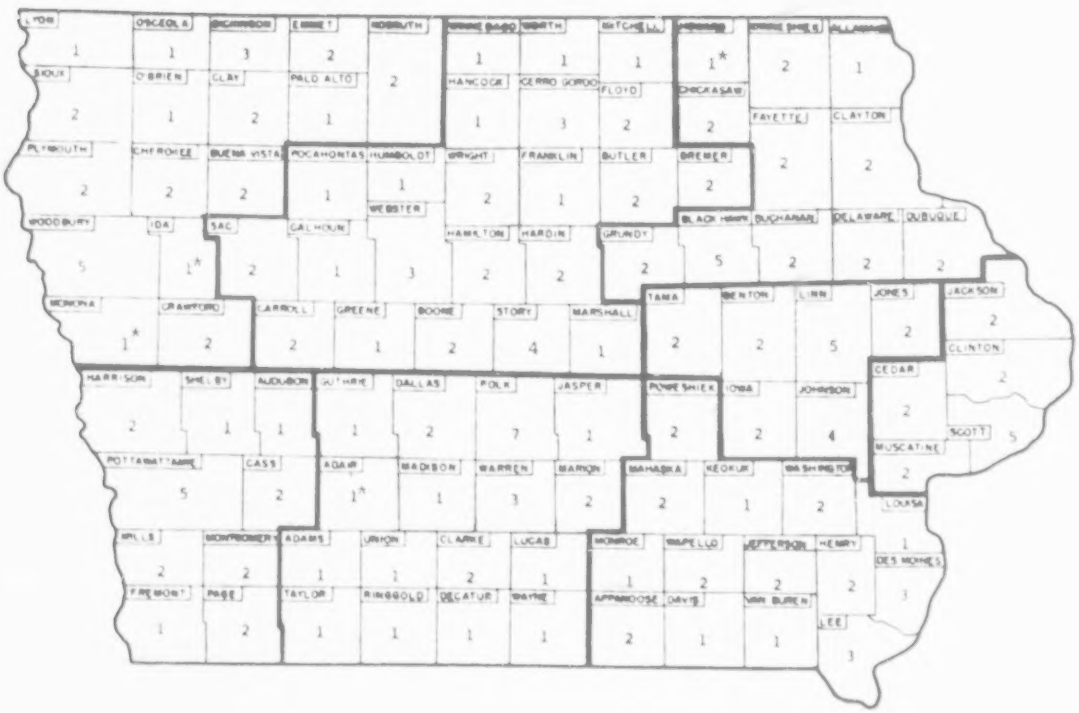


*Official 1985 population figures -- U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Iowa Office of Planning and Programming.

APPENDIX E

ALLOCATION OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATES JULY 1, 1985 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1987

37 - one Magistrate counties
48 - two Magistrate counties
6 - three Magistrate counties
2 - four Magistrate counties
5 - five Magistrate counties
1 - seven Magistrate county



*Counties taking the option of appointing one additional magistrate as provided in section 602.58.

**The allocation was reaffirmed in total when the state court administrator apportioned magistrates among the counties for the 1987-89 biennium.

APPENDIX F

FILINGS IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT
1956-1986

YEAR	#DISTRICT JUDGES	CIVIL[a]	CRIMINAL[b]	TOTAL	(PER JUDGE)	JUVENILE[c]	PROBATE[d] OPENED
1986	99	53,027	45,391	98,418	(994)	6,367	23,793
1985	99	54,005	41,116	95,121	(961)	6,060	24,790
1984	99	49,294	40,379	89,673	(906)	6,099	24,190
1983	99	51,476	39,952	91,428	(924)	5,532	24,233
1982	95	55,763	39,008	94,771	(998)	5,363	24,329
1981	95	58,225	36,932	95,157	(1,002)	5,570	24,192
1980	92	58,442	35,669	94,111	(1,028)	5,501	23,452
1979	92	51,031	31,026	82,057	(892)	5,227	23,479
1978	92	46,498	27,942	74,440	(809)	6,179	24,218
1977	92	43,324	28,795	72,119	(784)	6,000	23,202
1976	89	40,103	26,009	66,112	(742)	5,744	22,896
1975	84	37,963	23,600	61,563	(733)	5,685	22,640
1974	83	36,216	20,653	56,869	(685)	5,446	22,646
1973	83	38,057	16,148	54,205	(653)	3,730	22,803
1972	76	40,483	10,699	51,182	(673)	2,567	21,953
1971	76	40,315	11,300	51,615	(679)	3,249	21,317
1970	76	37,965	10,140	48,105	(633)	3,224	20,470
1969	76	35,574	9,505	45,079	(593)	2,876	20,158
1968	75	33,617	8,367	41,984	(560)	2,626	19,520
1967	76	31,646	7,496	39,142	(515)	2,367	19,310
1966	75	30,310	7,159	37,469	(500)	2,146	19,515
1965	75	29,207	7,432	36,639	(489)	2,163	19,463
1964	75	28,405	7,004	35,409	(472)	2,341	19,034
1963	75	28,138	6,641	34,779	(464)	2,096	18,532
1962	75	28,528	7,113	35,641	(475)	2,035	17,831
1961	75	28,288	7,209	35,497	(473)	1,880	17,346
1960	73	26,767	7,260	34,027	(466)	2,012	17,248
1959	73	25,136	7,086	32,222	(441)	2,005	17,117
1958	72	23,661	6,724	30,385	(422)	1,937	16,694
1957	72	23,579	6,486	30,065	(418)	1,921	16,945
1956	70	22,922	6,178	29,100	(416)	1,607	16,137

a. Includes civil cases over $2,000 and small claims on appeal.
b. Includes indictable criminal cases (serious and aggravated misdemeanors and felonies) and simple misdemeanor appeals.
c. Includes petitions filed in ordinary juvenile matters, e.g., delinquency, child and family in need of assistance and interstate compacts (extradition) matters; does not encompass cases involving termination of parental rights.
d. Includes the number of estates, trusteeships, guardianships and conservatorships opened.

APPENDIX G

OTHER FILINGS IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT
1974-1986

YEAR	SIMPLE MISDEMEANORS	SCHEDULED VIOLATIONS	SMALL CLAIMS
1986	236,179	450,169	68,465
1985	229,425	426,302	73,752
1984	232,070	426,023	71,666
1983	221,841	418,124	67,298
1982	231,998	425,272	67,967
1981	267,436	470,553	75,259
1980	292,037	490,158	82,208
1979	291,404	462,224	78,141
1978	319,481	476,955	72,054
1977	410,862	310,710	65,434
1976	410,696	285,086	62,416
1975	375,707	223,622	63,582
1974*	286,504	198,147	68,021

*This was the first full year under the new unified court system which became effective July 1, 1973.

APPENDIX H

CIVIL/CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS BY DISTRICT COURT JUDGES[a]
1956-1986

YEAR	#DISTRICT JUDGES	CIVIL[b]	CRIMINAL[c]	TOTAL	PER JUDGE
1986	99	54,284	19,387	73,671	744
1985	99	51,001	17,882	68,883	696
1984	99	49,324	20,382	69,706	704
1983	99	52,706	19,815	72,521	733
1982	95	54,484	19,027	73,511	774
1981	95	54,511	17,834	72,345	762
1980	92	52,799	17,448	70,247	764
1979	92	47,754	15,098	62,852	683
1978	92	41,898	14,561	56,459	614
1977	92	38,682	17,200	55,882	607
1976	89	37,319	17,750	55,069	619
1975	84	35,737	14,874	50,611	603
1974	83	35,007	14,268	49,275	594
1973	83	38,381	12,384	50,765	612
1972	76	40,553	11,147	51,700	680
1971	76	38,455	10,659	49,114	646
1970	76	35,636	9,304	44,940	591
1969	76	32,642	8,676	41,318	544
1968	75	29,541	8,035	37,576	501
1967	76	29,343	7,267	36,610	482
1966	75	30,140	6,916	37,056	494
1965	75	30,280	6,654	36,934	492
1964	75	28,258	6,757	35,015	467
1963	75	29,342	6,551	35,893	479
1962	75	28,941	7,165	36,106	481
1961	75	30,616	7,556	38,172	509
1960	73	24,094	7,196	31,290	429
1959	73	23,988	6,949	30,937	424
1958	72	23,304	6,533	29,837	414
1957	72	23,302	6,932	30,234	420
1956	70	21,741	5,836	27,577	394

a. Does not include civil and criminal cases disposed of by judges of limited jurisdiction and magistrates.
b. Includes civil cases over $2,000 and small claims cases appealed to the district court.
c. Includes indictable criminal cases (serious and aggravated misdemeanors and felonies) and simple misdemeanor appeals.